

STARS AND STRIPES®

Graner sentenced to 10 years for Iraqi prison abuse

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Spec. Charles Graner Jr.



Military cemetery officials see work as 'sacred'

Spotlight, Page 4



Widow reflects on King's legacy on his birthday

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Martin Luther King Jr.

Volume 63, No. 273 © SS 2005

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MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 2005

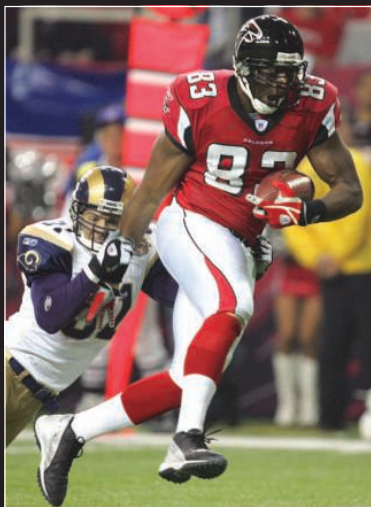
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Bush: Re-election endorses Iraq policy

President won't say if some troops to return home by year's end Page 12

Falcons thrive, Steelers survive in playoffs

Atlanta, Pittsburgh advance to title games Back page



AP photos

Above: Pittsburgh Steelers kicker Jeff Reed (3) celebrates with holder Chris Gardocki (17) after Reed's 33-yard field goal in overtime Saturday beat the New York Jets 20-17 in their AFC divisional playoff game in Pittsburgh. Left: Atlanta Falcons' Alge Crumpler (83) scores on an 18-yard pass from quarterback Michael Vick as the Los Angeles Rams' Adam Archuleta (31) defends in the first quarter of Saturday's NFC divisional playoff game in Atlanta. The Falcons beat the Rams 47-17.

Vicenza to open family readiness center

BY KENT HARRIS

Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — When most of the soldiers at Caserma Ederle head to Afghanistan in the coming months, there will be thousands of dependents left behind.

Tuesday, the base debuts a home-away-from-home for those who will stay in Vicenza. The newly refurbished and largely reconfigured Family Readiness Center opens in Davis Hall.

"It was definitely a base-wide effort to get this ready," said Holly Gifford, Army Community Services director, talking of both the remodeling and the movement of offices around base.

Base worked to ready hall before newest deployment

Davis Hall, a two-story structure between the 173rd Airborne Brigade headquarters and the post exchange parking lot, once housed an array of agencies providing various services to soldiers and their families.

ACS was a major tenant. Other offices included in-and-out processing, ID cards, transportation, driver's training and customs. The SatoTravel office was there as well. Most of those agencies have shifted into a new Central Processing Facility, which will have its grand opening in a few weeks.

A remodeled lounge area will be open 24 hours a day with the 22nd Area Support Group's staff duty officers located near the entrance. Child care service will be provided on site to those with business in the center. A translation service, staffed by volunteers, will offer free help in Italian and other languages. Eight computers with Internet access — six with Web cameras — will be set up.

Gifford said there's enough space in the building for a few classrooms and a conference room. Some of that room could be used by Family Readiness

Groups during a deployment.

Annette Evans, the interim director of community activities, said the center isn't just for the families of deployed soldiers.

"Anyone who supports the deployment can also use this," she said.

And some of the services provided in the center are designed for the entire community year round.

When the deployment starts, it's likely that other parts of the building will be open for extended hours as well. The Family Assistance Center, designed to as-

sist families of deployed soldiers, was open around the clock for 173rd's deployment to Iraq.

It hasn't been activated yet. It will be housed at Davis Hall if it's needed.

From there, people would provide help via a 24-hour phone line with toll-free numbers available from the States and other countries such as Germany.

Gifford said local military leaders wanted the center to be up and running before the deployment started. And, because of that, it only took a couple of months to get everything done.

E-mail Kent Harris at: harris@mil.ustris.osd.mil

New Wiesbaden housing rules: 3 strikes and out

BY WARD SANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

WIESBADEN, Germany — The 221st Base Support Battalion is taking a cue from the great American sport.

Specifically, the three strikes bit. The Wiesbaden-based battalion has begun a radio ad campaign warning troops in its 2,700 housing units not to break noise, trash or other rules, or else. After three infractions, they could be bounced out of housing, the battalion warns, although it hasn't said to where any evicted soldiers would go.

"Our goal is not have that happen. Our goal is to have the policy in place," said Lt. Col. Logan, chief for the battalion. She said the campaign is more about education than about playing hardball, and after a first infraction a soldier would be brought in and counseled.

"The three strikes rule is simply a method of education for our residents," Logan said, "and actually is just a training tool to encourage our residents to follow the rules."

No one has yet gotten three strikes, base officials said. They also declined to elaborate on where strike-out soldiers would wind up, be it off to the barracks while their family is sent home to the States or merely out into the German town on their own dime.

Logan said there wasn't any one event that led to the campaign, launched just last month. The military housing areas, though, bump right into their German neighbors and therefore encourage local laws as is as important as enforcing base regulations. That means quiet hours from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. every day as well as all day Sundays. And no mowing the lawn after 7 p.m. and before 9 a.m. Pets can only relieve themselves 50 feet from a building or playground.

And the battalion's rules dictate that families can only own a maximum of two pets — unless one of them is a panther. "No exotic pets," Logan said. "We don't want any lions or tigers or bears."

Logan said many residents simply don't know how German laws work when they first arrive.

"The housing folks that we've got here, as with any other housing area in Europe, most of these people it's their first time in Europe and they don't know what the rules are."

The battalion had four noise complaints from Germans in the summer over lawn mowing, but haven't had any since, said Donna Dean, the battalion spokeswoman.

In one of the radio spots, a child takes trash outside but can't get the unwieldy waste into the tall container.

"Part of the problem is parents letting their



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Andrew Nigg, right, and her children Alexandra, 11, and Jordon, 4, play on a swing set in the Hainberg Housing Area in Wiesbaden, Germany, on Wednesday. The 221st Base Support Battalion is implementing a "three strikes" policy so when residents repeatedly violate established housing standards and receive three strikes, they run the risk of being tossed out of military housing.

5-year-old take out the trash," Dean said. "They want to teach them responsibility, but it's your responsibility to make sure the trash gets in the container."

She said that noise is such a concern in Germany that the battalion itself always notifies the city in case of any special event. She said the Americans should be good neighbors to each other as well as the Germans.

"We want housing to be a place where people enjoy spending three years of their life."

Apparently the radio campaign is being heard. On a recent weekday at Wiesbaden Army Airfield, the base housing area was quiet under a cold sky.

Nigg watched as her two children played on swings and the merry-go-round. She said she was aware of the recycling, noise and trash rules, and that word was getting out. She didn't elaborate on whether three strikes are a good idea.

"I've heard of it," she said simply.

Ray Conway contributed to this report.

E-mail reporter Ward Sanderson at: sanderson@mil.ustris.osd.mil

Rota appeals ruling in Spanish worker's harassment lawsuit

BY BEN MURRAY

Stars and Stripes

NAVAL STATION ROTA, Spain — Representatives for the U.S. Navy in Rota have appealed a court ruling ordering the local Navy Exchange to pay more than 8,000 euros to a Spanish employee who claims she was harassed

for years by her American supervisor. The decision, handed down by a Spanish labor court Nov. 30 in the nearby city of Jerez de la Frontera, was hailed this week by members of the local Spanish labor union for a landmark ruling for Rota's Spanish employees.

But lawyers for the Spanish Ministry of Defense, who represent the Navy Exchange in Rota, have not conceded defeat yet, taking the matter to the state attorney's office to appeal the decision, said base spokeswoman Lt. Allie Freeman.

The case involves a longtime employee of the Navy Exchange who claims she has suffered years of mental anguish and related health problems since the arrival of the American supervisor in 2000.

After approaching a women's group at Rota's Spanish Labor Committee early last year with complaints that had been unjustly demoted and isolated from co-workers, the woman filed suit against the exchange March 16 seeking 30,000 euros in damages, said Maria del Carmen Dominguez, a member of the women's group.

Dominguez said the woman had worked at the store for

more than 30 years by the time she filed the suit.

The November decision, she said, was the first of its kind in the province of Cadiz, where Rota is located, and will provide an example to Spanish workers reluctant to speak out about harassment that the system can work in their favor, Dominguez said.

"We told the people, 'do not stop, do not shut up if something like this happens to you,'" she said.

Spanish workers have repeatedly been at odds with American employers over wages and job cuts at Rota in the past several years, with the union staging its most recent in November 2004.

The Spanish Ministry of Defense is arguing the case for the Navy Exchange because Rota is a joint Spanish-American base home to approximately 3,000 active-duty U.S. military personnel. It is the Navy Exchange, however, that will have to pay the damages if the decision holds up, Freeman said.

"The Spanish Ministry of Defense is appealing the case on behalf of the Navy Exchange because the SMOB is the official employer," Freeman said. "The effects of the judgment, however, are the responsibility of the Navy Exchange."

Rota NEX officials referred questions about the ruling to Freeman, who said it would be inappropriate to comment on the details of the case while the appeal is still pending.

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Old maps may be cause of sub's accident

BY SIOBHAN McDONOUGH
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Outdated charts may have been partially at fault for the undersea grounding of a U.S. nuclear submarine last weekend, according to a U.S. agency that analyzes spy satellite imagery and produces maps and charts for the Defense Department.

Officials at the Bethesda, Md.-based National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency said Saturday the main likely cause was by the USS San Francisco didn't reveal any obstacle anywhere near where the boat struck on the floor of the Pacific Ocean during underwater operations last Saturday about 350 miles south of Guam.

The closest notation on the map indicates discolored water about three miles from the accident site. The discolored water was reported by the Japanese most likely in the 1960s or even earlier, according to David Burpee, the agency's spokesman.

The Defense Mapping Agency created

the chart in 1989, and it was never revised. Burpee said a satellite photograph

taken 10 years later could be read in hindsight to show an underwater mountain not on the chart, but that was not clear at the time and, in any case, the photo was just one among thousands of shots of ocean expanses that have not been fully charted using all the latest methods.

"The charts used today may not reflect the reality of what's actually on the ocean floor," said Burpee, adding that the charts used today were charted with earlier technology and may not be up-to-date.

"You think [the charts] are right until somebody tells you they're not," he said, adding that ships use sonar to pick up

ocean forms and pass that information on to the agency.

**"This is part
of a massive
amount of sea that
has not been
mapped or charted
in detail."**

David Burpee
National Geospatial-Intelligence
Agency spokesman

close examination in the wake of the accident to indicate a submerged structure, such as a reef or a ridge, but also could have been read as showing variations in water color caused by dense growth of plankton or something dumped from a

passing ship, such as oil.

"The chart is an imprecise mapping of the bottom to begin with," he said. "There hasn't been a formal hydrographic sweep through that area of the ocean's bottom."

Burpee said there are currently 150 ships in the world capable of doing that kind of thorough deep water work and it would take all of them 30 years to map the world's deep water.

"It's not like there was one little area that got away from us, that escaped detection," he said. "This is a massive amount of sea that has not been mapped or charted in detail."

The emphasis in charting has been on the Northern Hemisphere because that's where the majority of commerce is, he said.

San Francisco's nuclear reactor was undamaged, and the submarine made its way back to its home port in Guam under its own power. Its outer hull was damaged, but its inner hull remained intact.

The submarine had been headed to Australia for a port visit.

Pair call caring for U.S. war dead a 'sacred mission'

BY RON JENSEN
Stars and Stripes

MADINGLEY, England

Marie-Laurie Warren makes little of her role as the first woman to hold a job as assistant superintendent at an American Battle Monuments Commission overseas cemetery.

"It's just worked out that way," said Warren, 28, a former soldier and mother of four daughters.

She'd rather talk about her job, which she started in August, at the Cambridge American Military Cemetery.

"The ABMC has a sacred mission," she said.

The commission was created after World War I to care for the graves of America's dead from that war. Gen. John Pershing served as its first director.

The ABMC now maintains cemeteries in England, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and Tunisia in the European region. Other cemeteries



Marie-Laurie Warren and Bobby Bell stand among the graves at the Cambridge American Cemetery, Madingley, England.

The new assistant superintendent and superintendent both said the joy of the job is in the faces of visitors who pay respects to America's war dead.

RON JENSEN
Stars and Stripes

are in the Philippines, Panama and Mexico.

In all, nearly 125,000 graves are under the commission's care. Following each world war, family members were given the choice of leaving their loved one buried overseas or returned to the States.

"They walk away with a good feeling that he or she is being well taken care of," she said.

"To them, it's not a headstone that has to be cleaned," she said. "It's a person who missed a life."

The well-manicured cemetery and the military bearing of the rows of 3,812 crosses and Stars of David always impress them, Warren said.

"They walk away with a good feeling that he or she is being well taken care of," she said.

Two British women recently visited — one to visit the grave of a husband and the other to visit the grave of a fiancé.

"They remember their loved one as he was — young and hand-

some and a dashing officer," said Warren, who was born in West Africa to missionary parents. "It's really a rewarding part of the job."

Warren's boss is also a newcomer to England. Bobby Bell arrived in the summer to take the superintendent reins after serving as assistant superintendent at cemeteries in the Netherlands and France.

"We see a lot more Americans here," he said.

That wasn't true on the Continent.

"If I heard an American voice in the visitors center, it was a surprise — a pleasant surprise," he said.

But his current job is within a 40-minute drive of about 10,000 American servicemen's graves stationed at RAF Mildenhall, RAF Lakenheath, RAF Alconbury and RAF Mildenhall.

Bell, 48, conducted a nonscientific survey using the cemetery's guest register and estimated that about 40 percent of the ceme-

tery's 100,000 visitors each year are Americans, most of them active-duty people serving in the area.

"That's wonderful," he said. "As a fellow American, it makes me feel good."

Since arriving at the Cambridge cemetery, he's been impressed, he said, with the way the American military community in England embraces the cemetery as a part of it.

Recently, he said, several airmen from RAF Mildenhall spent a day cleaning some of the cemetery's markers on the graves of America's dead from World War II.

An Air Force brat, Bell served four years in the U.S. Navy. He has worked in the American military community in Munich and Wiesbaden, Germany, spending some of that time with the Army and Air Force Exchange Service.

He joined the ABMC in 2001 as an assistant at The Netherlands American Military Cemetery in Margraten, the Netherlands. Before coming to England, he was

assistant superintendent at the Somme American Military Cemetery at Bony, France.

Despite the current numbers, Bell hopes to increase the American visitation at the cemetery. He plans to visit the schools on buses to encourage more visits by students.

Bell said the families who chose to leave their loved ones buried in faraway lands were promised by the government they would be looked after.

"The U.S. has not failed to follow through on that promise," he said.

Now working in his third country for the commission, Bell has seen the look Europeans have when they enter an American cemetery for the first time.

"They see what we do to honor our war dead, and it raises their appreciation [of America]," he said. "One thing we don't cut corners on is how we honor our war dead."

E-mail Ron Jensen at: ronjensen@starsandstripes.com

Stripes Spotlight

Bobby Bell



Bell is the superintendent at the Cambridge American Cemetery in Madingley, England.

Age: 48

Family: Belgian-born wife, Christine; two poodles

Home: Air Force brat, "I've lived all over the world."

Military service: Served four years in the U.S. Navy

Stars and Stripes

Stripes Spotlight



Warren is the first woman to hold a job as assistant superintendent at an American Battle Monuments Commission overseas cemetery.

Age: 28

Family: Husband, David; four daughters; Adeney, 6; Ferni, 4; S'ade, 3; Shola, 18 months

Home: Tampa, Fla.

Military service: Served seven years in the U.S. Army

Stars and Stripes

U.S. forces launch raids in northern Iraq

Troops work to secure Mosul amid unease about upcoming elections

By JASON KEYSER
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — U.S. forces carried out a series of raids in Iraq's troubled northern city of Mosul, the military said Sunday, as American and Iraqi authorities scramble to prepare for elections there in the face of mass resignations of polling staff and police.

A Bradley fighting vehicle was damaged Sunday in the city when an explosion occurred as a U.S. convoy passed by, witnesses said. It was unclear whether there were casualties.

U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz acknowledged that the security threat to the Jan. 30 election was worse than in last October's nationwide balloting in Afghanistan and that it was impossible to guarantee "absolute security" against the "extraordinary intimidation that the enemy is undertaking."

In the Mosul area, the U.S. Army's Stryker Brigade Combat Team detained 11 suspected insurgents, including an alleged cell leader, and seized weapons and bomb making material in several weekend raids — part of the military's strategy to try to secure the city short of launching an all-out offensive.

East of Mosul, a Katyusha rocket slammed into a home near the Kurdish regional parliament building in Irbil where leaders of the two main Kurdish parties were meeting to discuss the election, a police official said Sunday.

The Mosul area has emerged as a major flashpoint between U.S. and Iraqi forces and the insurgents, raising fears that the election cannot be held in much of the city, Iraq's third largest.

U.S. and Iraqi officials are scrambling to recruit new police and election workers in Mosul



U.S. Army 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry soldiers search cars around an auto repair shop Sunday in Mosul, Iraq, in an area plagued by car bombs and other insurgent attacks.

after thousands of them resigned in the face of rebel intimidation. A new police chief was appointed a week ago to command a force of barely 1,000. Last November the city had 5,000 police.

Similar mass resignations are believed to have occurred in other Sunni Muslim areas of northern, central and western Iraq.

"I would underscore that there was intimidation in Afghanistan — the Taliban threatened all kinds of violence against people who registered or people who voted," Wolfowitz told reporters Sunday in Jakarta, Indonesia. "But I don't believe they ever got around to shooting election workers in the street or kidnapping the children of political candidates."

Also Sunday, insurgents attacked an Iraqi National Guard patrol south of Baghdad, injuring two guardsmen, one of them critically. Lt. Adnan Abdul-Allah said.

In central Baghdad, gunmen in police uniform Sunday ambushed a car carrying prominent woman candidate Salama al-Khafaji in this month's general election, but she escaped injury when her bodyguards returned fire, one of her aides said. The attack was the second attempt on al-Khafaji's life since May.

In Ramadi, five explosions rocked a joint U.S.-Iraqi National Guard base, sending thick black smoke rising above the area, witnesses said. Sporadic clashes were reported in the city center.

Elsewhere, U.S. troops fired on a car that sped toward them near the central city of Samarra on Sunday morning, wounding two people, the military said. A spokesman said ground troops fired warning shots before aiming directly at the vehicle. The driver and a passenger were wounded.

Iraqi police and several witnesses, however, reported that four people were killed and that the vehicle was hit by tank fire.

A major insurgent group claimed responsibility Sunday for kidnapping 15 Iraqi National Guard members who were reported missing last week. The 15 guardsmen had been pulled from a bus near their base in the town of Hit, 90 miles west of Baghdad.

A statement posted on an Islamic Web site took responsibility on behalf of Ansar al-Sunnah.

"Your brothers were able to carry off a well-turned ambush operation for the crusaders' right hand in Iraq," the statement said, using "crusaders" as a term for Western forces.

It gave no indication of the men's fate. The authenticity of the claim could not be immediately verified.

Ansar al-Sunnah has claimed responsibility for numerous attacks, including a December suicide bombing that killed 22 people, most of them Americans, at a U.S. military dining tent on a base in Mosul.

The group is also blamed in the August executions of 12 Nepalese construction workers and the suicide bombings in February that killed 109 members of Iraq's assertive Tawhid militia.

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U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Saturday, at least 1,362 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,071 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said.

The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is four higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. Friday.

day.

The British military has reported 76 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 16; Ukraine, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,224 U.S. military members have died, according to

AP's count. That includes at least 962 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ A Marine was killed in action Saturday in Babil province.

■ A Marine assigned to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force was killed Friday in a nonhostile accident in Anbar province.

The latest identifications reported by military:

■ No identifications reported.

Oil to flow again through northern pipeline

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Almost a month after saboteurs shut down a northern Iraqi oil pipeline, the government said Sunday it should resume pumping crude from northern fields to an export terminal in southwestern Turkey by month's end.

A Dec. 18 explosion caused by saboteurs halted the flow of oil through the northern pipeline, which was carrying about 400,000 barrels a day before the attack.

"Repair work on the damaged export pipeline that carries crude oil from Kirkuk oil fields to the Turkish port of Ceyhan is expected to finish in 10 days time from now," the Oil Ministry statement said.

"Exports via the pipeline to Turkey's Ceyhan port are expected to resume immediately after completing repair work."

The statement also said a damaged feeder pipe-

line that carries crude oil from Kirkuk oil fields to the Beiji refinery, in northern Iraq, has been repaired and has started resupplying the refinery with 300,000 barrels a day.

Iraq's northern pipeline has been the target of repeated insurgent attacks, and the storage facilities at Ceyhan, Turkey, ran dry last month.

Iraq's State Oil Marketing Organization last week informed customers it would reduce southern term export contracts by 10 percent, or 160,000-170,000 barrels a day, for five months due to insurgent attacks, bad weather hampering the southern export terminals' operations and demurrage costs.

The organization's chief, Dhia al-Bakka, said last month that exports averaged 1.55 million barrels a day in 2004, with 1.43 million barrels coming from the south and 120,000 from the north.

The annual average export level fell below the target of 1.85 million barrels a day because of the country's deteriorating security situation.

Recovery team picks up pieces after attacks

BY JASON CHUDY

Stars and Stripes

BAGHDAD—When a roadside or car bomb badly damages a vehicle, soldiers from Company B, 210th Forward Support Battalion, receive a call.

The battalion's 10-member vehicle recovery team is responsible for collecting inoperable vehicles in the 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division's operating area around much of Baghdad.

"Most have been around central Baghdad," said Sgt. 1st Class Thomas McDiffitt, vehicle recovery team noncommissioned officer in charge. "Fifty to 60 percent have been on Route Irish (the road from central Baghdad to the airport), the rest were north and northwest Baghdad."

All told, the team has recovered more than 40 vehicles since the battalion arrived in Iraq last summer.

"The majority were (damaged) from IEDs or VBIEDs (roadside or car bombs)," McDiffitt said. At best, these bombs have heavily damaged the vehicles; at worst, they've destroyed them. Either way, the soldiers have to go

out and pick up what's left.

"They're pretty much blown up," said Spc. Brandon Beechler. "They're non-mission capable — tires flattened, doors missing, windows blown out."

Some have burned into nothing more than large hunks of twisted metal. The recovered vehicles will be sent to Kuwait for repairs or, if damaged beyond repair, kept at Camp Liberty.

Beechler drives the team's M1098 truck and "lowboy" trailer for many of the recoveries.

The unit keeps two wreckers and one lowboy on standby. They can also call the battalion's Company A to bring a pallet-loading truck for smaller vehicles.

Wrecker driver Spc. Terrence Valis said one trailer they recovered had 1,600 155mm artillery rounds in it. Some had fuses installed, so when they lifted the trailer for its trip back, Valis naturally worried. "If one had a fuse and falls we're gonna be suckin'," he remembered thinking.

The unit is able to carry any wheeled vehicles or trailers — tracked equipment, like a Bradley Fighting Vehicle, is picked up by another unit.



JASON CHUDY/Stars and Stripes

Six of the 10 members of the 210th Forward Support Battalion's vehicle recovery team stand in front of one of their two wreckers. The unit sends between four and six soldiers to most vehicle recoveries.

They can be ready to leave their Camp Liberty base within about 30 minutes, McDiffitt said. Most recoveries don't take very long.

"If you've got good NCOs, when you get to the scene and they assess it pretty well, it'll take about 30 minutes," Beechler said.

Valis has attended the Army's formal vehicle recovery school. "There's a lot of stuff out there they can't teach you, so you have

to learn it as you go," he said.

The unit doesn't provide its own security, so it is dependent on other units for protection. And because they're headed to a scene of a previous attack, there's usually a good possibility that there are still enemies nearby.

"I get kind of a rush — you don't know if you are going to get shot at or get hit by an IED," Valis said. "We've had a couple of

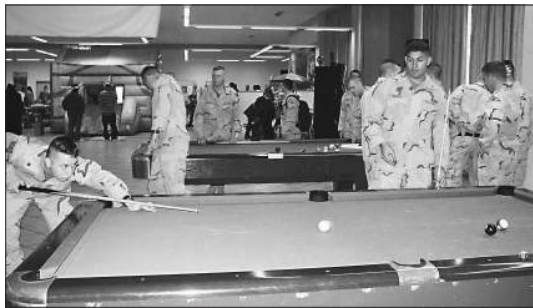
shots popped off at us."

Even when they aren't shot at, the missions aren't usually pleasant — especially those involving suicide car bombers.

"I got a piece of [body] stuck in my boot and didn't know it," Valis said about one mission. "I looked down and there was a piece of the dude."

E-mail Jason Chudy at: chudyj@mail.strips.esd.mil

Hohenfels welcomes soldiers home from Afghanistan, Iraq



Above: Soldiers shoot some pool at a community welcome home party Tuesday in Hohenfels, Germany. The celebration was for Company A, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, which returned in December from Afghanistan, and soldiers from the Combat Maneuver Training Center Operations Group Grizzly and Timberwolves observer-controller teams, which returned from Iraq in November. "We were [in Afghanistan] to act as a security force for the elections and as a [quick reaction force] for the elections," said Sgt. 1st Class Scott Broxton, Company A, 1-4 Infantry. "There were times when you would think I really don't want to be here, but most of the time you realized how important it was to support our nation and be there for the elections."

Right: Family members and soldiers dig into lunch at the party. "We got home at midnight and most of the wives were there and a lot of people from the community were there," Broxton said. "The celebration was nice. It was really good of the community to do something like this for us."



PHOTOS BY GERRY ARBIO/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

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It's a sight that isn't seen often in Afghanistan — water flooding an area, the result of recent rainfall in Kandahar.

Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Afghanistan's drought could finally be ending

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY
Stars and Stripes

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Recent rains in Afghanistan have some people wondering if the drought that has bedeviled the nation for years is ending.

In the week between Christmas and New Year's Day, about 3 1/2 inches of rain fell in Kandahar over a two-day period, said Air Force Staff Sgt. Wes Brogan, a meteorologist with the 25th Air Support Operational Squadron. The rest of the week saw traces of precipitation.

"We got hit with a massive low-pressure system that stalled out over Afghanistan," said Brogan, who is assigned to Kandahar Air Base. "It passed really slowly, and it took a long time to move out."

Rainfall for December was four times the normal amount for the month.

More rain and snow fell last week in southern and eastern Afghanistan, the region hardest hit by the seven-year drought. Out to the west, the city of Herat got dumped with about 6 inches of snow Thursday.

Military forecasters in Afghanistan have asked the Air Force Combat Climatology Center in Asheville, N.C., whether all this precipitation means the end of the drought. They at least want to know if wetter days are ahead, beyond the coming rainy season, which is typically March and April.

The late-December storm hit "pretty much everywhere, but I think we got the worst of it," said Air Force Capt. Jodi Bergan, commander of the Kandahar weather unit.

North of Kandahar Air Base, the Tamak River rose so high the water was nearly touching the bottom of the main bridge leading into town.

Meanwhile, near Kabul, rainwater filled some smaller

streams that are usually bone-dry this time of year.

Afghans say "this is a sign from God," said Khoshhal Murad, a United Nations interpreter in Kabul.

When the Taliban were in power, Murad said, some of its leaders grew so frustrated by the drought they randomly rounded up dozens of people, drove them into the desert and demanded they pray for rain. It didn't come.

"You can't force people to pray," Murad said. "It should have gone out in the desert themselves."

"In the last 10 years, there was very little or no rain, and that was because of the Taliban."

Khoshhal Murad
United Nations
interpreter

ine Early Warning Systems Network predicted the drought would continue and that serious food and water shortages would result. The network receives funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development.

By his own recollection, Murad said it's been at least a decade since so much rain fell in so little a time.

Some Afghans, a somewhat superstitious lot, blame the drought on the Taliban, which seized power in September 1996. People soon grew unhappy with the hard-line religious government and, consequently, Allah was unhappy, Murad said.

The recent success of the presidential election has turned frowns into smiles, he added.

"In the last 10 years," Murad said, "there was very little or no rain, and that was because of the Taliban. Absolutely. Everybody connects [the drought] to the Taliban."

E-mail Kevin Dougherty at: doughertyk@mail.strips.com

GI sentenced to 10 years for Iraqi prison abuse role

BY T.A. BADGER
The Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas — Spc. Charles Graner Jr., the Army reservist shown smiling in photos beside naked Iraqi prisoners, was sentenced to 10 years in military prison after telling jurors he was ordered to abuse detainees and "didn't enjoy what I did there."

Graner, labeled the leader of a band of rogue guards at the Abu Ghraib prison, could have received 15 years behind bars in the first court-martial stemming from the scandal.

Asked if he felt remorse after the sentence was handed down on Saturday, Graner said, "There's a war on. Bad things happen."

Graner will be dishonorably discharged when his sentence is completed. He was denoted to private and ordered to forfeit all pay and benefits.

A day after convicting him, the jury of four Army officers and six senior enlisted men deliberated about two hours to determine Graner's sentence.

Graner, who had been free prior to trial, was taken into custody after the sentence was read. He gave his mother, Irma, a hug and his father, Charles Sr., a hand-

shake before the jury foreman read the sentence.

"He's scared to death," Irma Graner said later.

Graner was accused of stacking naked prisoners in a human pyramid and later ordering them to masturbate while other soldiers took photographs. He allegedly punched one man in the head hard enough to knock him out, and struck an injured prisoner with a collapsible metal stick.

He was shown in one photo giving a thumbs-up sign next to a dead body packed in ice.

Defense lawyer Guy Womack said his client and the six other Abu Ghraib guards charged with abuses were being scapegoated.

"I firmly believe there should have been reasonable doubt, but we respect their decision," he said outside the courthouse. Prosecutors Maj. Michael Holley and Capt. Chris Graveline would not speak to reporters, but



Graner

they said in a joint statement, "We think it is important that the world was able to observe this court-martial."

Under military court rules, Graner's case will be automatically appealed to the Army Court of Criminal Appeals. He also could request clemency from his commanding general.

Graner did not testify during trial, but during the sentencing phase Saturday he took the witness stand to repeat the defense claim that the jury clearly rejected: that he had been ordered by intelligence agents at Abu Ghraib to abuse the prisoners to make them easier to interrogate.

Womack asked him why he was smiling in the infamous photos, some of which were shown while Graner spoke.

"I'm smiling now, and that's a nervous smile," Graner said.

"There was a lot of things that we did that were so screwed up, if you didn't look at them as funny, there was no way to deal with it."

Graner described himself as a by-the-book prison guard corrupted by superiors who ordered him to physically mistreat and sexually humiliate detainees.

U.S. military releases 80 Afghan prisoners

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The U.S. military on Sunday freed about 80 prisoners held in Afghanistan, and the country's most senior judge said the government was negotiating for the release of hundreds more Afghans from American custody.

In a move which could help a reconciliation drive with former Taliban, two buses brought the 80 Afghan men from the main U.S. base at Bagram to the Supreme Court in the capital, Kabul, where they were received by the chief justice.

Fazl Hadi Shinwari congratulated them on their

freedom and told them to be grateful to return to their families for the Muslim feast of Eid al-Adha, which begins Thursday.

"Don't sabotage the security or the government and God will be pleased with you," the white-bearded cleric told the men, seated in a hall at the court before they were allowed to complete their journeys home.

An aide to president Hamid Karzai, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the prisoners had been held either at Bagram or at a U.S. base in the southeastern city of Khost or at Kandahar in the south. Court officials initially announced that the men were from the U.S. jail at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, but later said they were mistaken.



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IN THE WORLD

Indonesia raises tsunami death toll by 5,000

Wolfowitz praises U.S. troops as second airport opens for relief missions

The Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — Some nations observed a minute of silence on Sunday to honor the dead three weeks after a devastating tsunami smashed coastlines across southern Asia and Africa, as Indonesia increased its death toll, bringing the figure for one of the worst-ever natural disasters to more than 162,000.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz on Sunday wrapped up a visit to hard-hit Indonesia — where officials raised the death toll by 5,000 to more than 115,000 — to get a firsthand look at the devastation.

Jakarta, meanwhile, backed away from an earlier call for foreign troops delivering relief to be out of the country by March 26 — three months from the day after the earthquake and tsunami hit 11 nations.

"We would like to emphasize that March 26 is not a deadline for involvement of foreign military personnel in the relief effort," Defense Minister Juwono Sudarsono said after meeting Wolfowitz in Jakarta.

Wolfowitz praised American troops for their efforts to aid survivors and hinted that the American operation could presage closer military ties with Indonesia.

"We need to think about how we can strengthen this newly elected democratic government, strengthen the civilian defense minister — to help build the kind of defense institution that will ensure in the future that the Indonesian military, like our military, is a loyal function of a



AP

In the first floor of a tsunami-damaged hospital, a German doctor gets help from an interpreter to diagnose an elderly man having trouble breathing in Banda Aceh, Indonesia.

democratic government," said Wolfowitz, a former U.S. ambassador to Jakarta.

The U.S. military will greatly wind down its presence in Thailand and Sri Lanka over the next week or two, Marine Lt. Gen. Robert Blackman, who is in charge of coordinating American relief efforts in South Asia, said Saturday.

In Indonesia, U.S. forces are still working hard to deliver supplies to people in affected areas, he said.

Indonesia "is clearly the most challenging" of the three countries, Blackman said. "You can't minimize 130,000 deaths on the island of Sumatra."

Meanwhile, Australia and New Zealand — both of which lost vacationing citizens on the southern beaches of Thailand — observed the silence at the precise time the 9.0-magnitude earthquake that triggered the tsunami struck. Bells tolled and flags flew at half-staff.

"Three weeks ago, the world began to watch in horror as a catastrophe without precedent in recent times unfolded around the Indian Ocean," said New Zealand's Prime Minister Helen Clark.

Indonesia's Social Affairs Ministry said 12,132 people were still missing as bodies continued to be pulled from the wreckage that was once coastal settlements. It said 603,518 were displaced — about 100,000 fewer than the figure three days ago.

The movement of relief supplies into Indonesia's northern Sumatra was expected to double with the opening of a second airport Sunday, as United Nations teams moved deeper into the interior to assess the plight of villagers who had fled the tsunami-devastated coastline.

The damaged airfield at Sabang Island, just off the northern tip of Sumatra, was back in operation with military C-130 transports from several nations scheduled to arrive in the coming days, said a U.S. Navy spokesman, Lt. Cmdr. John Bernard.

U.N. teams, assessing the state of survivors along the coast, were pushing as deep as 12 miles into the interior to locate and determine the needs of displaced people, said Rob Holden of the U.N. World Health Organization.

NBC holds a star-studded benefit show

By DAVID BAUDER
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — With Norah Jones singing "we're all in this thing together," movie and music stars contributed their talents for a hastily arranged benefit for tsunami victims televised live on Saturday.

The two-hour program aired on NBC Universal-owned stations, with all donations going to the American Red Cross International Response Fund.

"We have a choice," Clint Eastwood said. "We can either look away or we can help."

Actors told stories about the tsunami, and NBC showed pictures of the effects of the devastating waves and the agony of children left behind.

Morgan Freeman told of a 60-year-old man in Sri Lanka who survived for two weeks before being found by rescuers. "Miracles do happen," he said. "You can be that miracle also."

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PLO committee urges militants to end attacks

BY RAVI NESSMAN
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — A top PLO decision-making body called on Palestinian militants Sunday to halt attacks against Israel, charging that the violence gives Israel an excuse to carry out military operations.

The PLO Executive Committee issued its statement in Ramallah. It followed a militant attack late Thursday at the Karni crossing between Gaza and Israel that left six Israeli civilians dead, setting off Israeli reprisal raids in Gaza.

After the attacks, Israeli Prime Minister Sharon cut off contacts with the regime of Mahmoud Abbas, sworn in Saturday as Yasser Arafat's successor as head of the Palestinian Authority.

A senior Israeli official, speaking on condition of anonymity, downplayed the Palestinian statement, saying the Palestinians will be judged by their deeds and not their words.

In its statement, the PLO body called on militants to "stop all the military action that might harm our national goals and give the Israelis an excuse to obstruct Palestinian stability."

Abbas has spoken out against Palestinian violence but has rejected Israeli demands to confront the militant groups, preferring to negotiate a truce instead.

On Sunday, Sharon said he had ordered

Israeli forces to intensify efforts to stop Palestinian attacks, adding that the military would act without restrictions until Palestinian leaders take action against militants themselves.

On Saturday, the Israeli military launched a broad raid into Gaza that killed five Palestinians. Three more Palestinians were killed in separate incidents.

For their part, militants fired homemade rockets Saturday at the Israeli town of Sderot, critically wounding a teenage girl. Hamas militants fired two more rockets at Sderot on Sunday. In the last two weeks, attacks in Gaza increased from 40 a week to 100, the military said.

"The army and the security forces have been instructed to increase operational activity to stop terrorism and they will continue to do so without restrictions — I emphasize without restrictions — so long as the Palestinians don't lift a finger," Sharon said. "The operational level has been instructed to take any step necessary to stop the terrorism."

Senior military officials said on condition of anonymity that the army was considering either a major raid into Gaza or several small operations against militants. The military prefers the second option, fearing a broad operation would ruin Abbas' chances for success, the officials said.

On Sunday night, a large explosion was heard in northern Gaza, residents said, but its cause was not immediately known. The Israeli military had no comment.



Palestinian Authority president Mahmoud Abbas attends a PLO Executive Committee meeting at the Ramallah, West Bank, headquarters of the late Yasser Arafat on Sunday. The committee has called on Palestinian militants to "stop all the military action that might harm our national goals."

Iran: Tests to show peaceful nuke program

BY ALI AKBAR DAREINI
The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran on Sunday said environmental samples taken this week-end by U.N. inspectors from a military complex will prove Tehran's nuclear program is peaceful.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi said inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency took samples from landscaped areas of the huge Parchin complex, which the United States alleges may be involved in nuclear weapons research.

"They (inspectors) took some environmental samples from the open space at the complex and returned (to Vienna). Now, they have to present the outcome of their work to the agency," Asefi told reporters.

"We know what the result will be. Since we have never done any illegal (nuclear) activity, definitely the result will prove our declarations," the spokesman said.

The IAEA had been pressing Tehran for months to be allowed to inspect the complex, long used to research, develop and produce ammunition, missiles and high explosives.

Iran had said it would allow U.N. nuclear experts to take environmental samples from green spaces outside the military complex's ammunition production workshops but that it wouldn't allow them to inspect military equipment.

Iranian officials also said before the visit that they would closely watch the inspectors to prevent any possible theft or spying at the military complex.



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TALK WITH YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR TODAY ABOUT HOW TO ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS

66-year-old gives birth to baby girl

Second baby was stillborn, doctors say

BY ALISON MUTLER
The Associated Press

BUCHAREST, Romania — Doctors said a 66-year-old Romanian woman gave birth Sunday to a baby girl and had become the world's oldest recorded woman to give birth. The child's twin sister was stillborn, they said.

Romanian doctors at the Giulesci Maternity Hospital in Bucharest said Adriana Iliescu, who was artificially inseminated, delivered a daughter by cesarean section early Sunday. Iliescu's daughter — Eliza Maria — was born more than six weeks short of a full 40-week pregnancy term, said a hospital spokeswoman. She weighed just 3.19 pounds, less than half the weight of an average newborn, and was in the intensive care unit but breathing on her own, the spokeswoman said.

Late Sunday, the baby had her first meal — a few drops of glucose.

"We are happy that the mother and child are normal and we hope

this will continue," said Dr. Bogdan Marinescu, who runs the hospital.

Doctors performed the emergency Cesarean section after the smaller of Iliescu's twins died in the womb, the spokeswoman said.

That child weighed just 1.54 pounds, she said.

"The mother is doing well — she is saying she has been given a new lease of life," the spokeswoman said, reading from a statement.

Iliescu underwent fertility treatments for nine years, including procedures to reverse the effects of menopause, before being artificially inseminated, Marinescu told reporters.

He said he successfully inseminated Iliescu on his first attempt, and that she initially was carrying triplets but lost the third fetus after nine to ten weeks.

Asked why he had let a 66-year-old woman become pregnant, Marinescu said: "She was in the right condition to carry a pregnancy."



Dr. Bogdan Marinescu, head of the Giulesci Maternity Hospital in Bucharest, Romania, speaks to the media Sunday.

There is no law in Romania stipulating a maximum age for artificial insemination, and he said declined to comment on ethical questions regarding the pregnancy.

However, he said he was impressed by Iliescu's faith in God and her determination to have a child. Doctors say the mother and child may be released from the hospital in the next few weeks.

Guinness World Records lists two 63-year-old women who have given birth: Rosanna Della Corte of Italy in 1994 and Arceli Keli of California in 1996. News reports, however, have put Della Corte's age at 62 when she gave birth.

Poll: Croatia's president wins runoff election

ZAGREB, Croatia — Croatian President Stipe Mesic was overwhelmingly elected to a second term in Sunday's runoff election, winning more than 71 percent of the vote, according to an exit poll.

The GfK research agency said Mesic received 71.1 percent of the votes cast, while conservative governing-party rival Jadranka Kosor, the Cabinet minister in charge of families and war veterans, received 25.5 percent.

The poll surveyed 20,000 people, the head of the agency, Dinko Svetopetkovic, told private Nova TV.

The runoff was held because Mesic, 70, won about 49 percent of the votes in the first round of voting held Jan. 2, falling just short of the required absolute majority.

Italian railway workers set for strike

ROME — Railway workers prepared Sunday to stage a 24-hour strike to press demands for improved safety measures following the Jan. 7 head-on crash between a freight train and a passenger train on a single track near Bologna that killed 17. Five of the victims were train workers; the others were passengers.

The strike was scheduled to start at 9 p.m. Sunday, although railway company Trenitalia said minimum service would be guaranteed during the walkout, especially during Monday's morning and evening rush hours.

Preliminary investigations have found that the passenger train failed to stop at a red signal, but the exact cause of the crash, including possible human or mechanical error, has still not been determined.

Traffic ban aims to lower pollution levels

ROME — People in Rome, Milan and other Italian cities on Sunday got around on public transportation, bicycles, on foot and even on horseback as car traffic was banned for several hours to lower air-pollution levels.

In Rome and Milan, however, fans going to the stadiums to watch soccer games were to be exempted from the ban, provided they could show a ticket if required.

In Rome, the ban started at 10 a.m., with Romans and tourists alike taking advantage of a sunny day and lack of traffic for walks and bike or horseback rides. The restriction, originally scheduled to last eight hours, eventually was cut to five hours.

Smaller cities such as Brescia, Bergamo and Como also adopted similar bans.

From The Associated Press

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IN THE STATES

Bush says election in Iraq is ratifies his Iraq policy

BY JIM VANDEHEI and
MICHAEL A. FLETCHER

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Bush said the public's decision to re-elect him was a ratification of his approach toward Iraq and that there was no reason to hold any administration officials accountable for mistakes or misjudgments in prewar planning or managing the violent aftermath. "We had a recent statement of intent, and that's called the 2004 elections," Bush said in an interview with The Washington Post. "The American people listened to different assessments made about what was taking place in Iraq, and they looked at the two candidates and chose me."

With the Iraq elections two weeks away and no signs of the deadly insurgency abating, Bush set no timetable for withdrawing U.S. troops and twice declined to endorse Secretary of State Colin Powell's recent statement that the number of Americans serving in Iraq could be reduced by year's end. Bush said he will not ask Congress to expand the size of the National Guard or regular Army, as some lawmakers and military experts propose.

In a wide-ranging, 35-minute interview aboard Air Force One on Friday, Bush also laid out new

details of his second-term plans for both foreign and domestic policy. For the first time, Bush said he will not press senators to pass a Constitutional amendment banning gay marriage, the top priority for many social conservative groups. And he said he has no plans to cut benefits for the roughly 40 percent of Social Security recipients who collect monthly disability and survivors payments as he prepares his plan for partial privatization.

With his inauguration just days away, Bush defended the administration's decision to force the District of Columbia to spend \$12 million of its homeland security budget to provide tighter security for this week's festivities. He also warned that the ceremony could make the city "an attractive target for terrorists."

But it will be Iraq that dominates White House deliberations off stage. Over the next few weeks, Bush will be monitoring closely Iraq's plan to hold elections for a 275-member national assembly. He must deliver his State of the Union address with a message of resolve on Iraq, and he will need to seek congressional approval for roughly \$100 billion in emergency spending, much of it for the war.

In the interview, the president underlined Americans to show patience in coming months as Iraq moves slowly toward creating a democratic nation where a brutal

dictatorship once stood. But the relentless optimism that dominated Bush's speeches before the U.S. election was sometimes replaced by pragmatism and caution.

"On a complicated matter such as removing a dictator from power and trying to help achieve democracy, sometimes the unexpected will happen, both good and bad," he said. "I am realistic about how quickly a society that has been dominated by a tyrant can become a democracy... I am more patient than some."

Powell last week said U.S. troops levels could be reduced this year, but Bush said it is premature to judge the number of U.S. men and women who will be needed to defeat the insurgency and plant a new and sustainable government. He also declined to pledge to significantly reduce U.S. troop levels before the end of his second term in January 2009.

"The sooner the Iraqis are better prepared, the better equipped, the sooner our troops can start coming home," he said. Bush did rule out asking Congress to increase the size of the National Guard and regular Army, as many lawmakers, including the president's 2004 opponent Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., are calling for. "What we're going to do is make sure that the missions of the National Guard and the Reserves closely dovetail with active Army units, so that the pressure... is eased."



AMERICAN PRESS/AP

Wilbert Rideau, right, joined by attorneys, friends and family members, speaks Sunday, after his release from the Calcasieu Parish Correctional Center in Lake Charles, La.

La. prison journalist freed after 44 years

Man found guilty of manslaughter in '61 death

By ADAM NOSSITER

The Associated Press

LAKE CHARLES, La. — An award-winning black journalist convicted of murder three times by all-white juries in the 1961 death of a bank teller was set free after a racially mixed jury found him guilty of manslaughter.

Wilbert Rideau, a confessed killer who gained fame for exposés of harsh Louisiana prison life, won his release Saturday after nearly 44 years in state prisons.

A manslaughter conviction allows his release from time served.

Seven whites and five blacks deliberated for nearly six hours before reaching an unanimous decision.

Rideau, 62, showed little emotion as the verdict was announced late Saturday night. He left the Calcasieu Correctional Center with his lawyers, making only a few passing comments to reporters.

"I'm still trying to assess it," Rideau said. "It's unreal. It's all so new."

A small but jubilant crowd of supporters cheered Saturday's decision, shouting, "All right, Wilbert!" and "Thank you, Lord!"

On Sunday, Rideau left Lake Charles for Baton Rouge. His supporters were worried for his safety because of the depth of feeling against him in parts of Lake Charles, said Linda LaBranche, a legal researcher who worked with the Rideau Project at Loyola University in New Orleans and now runs Rideau's Web site.

The case has haunted this lake-side city near the Texas line for decades. Rideau's advocates have contended that his years in prison have rehabilitated him.

Rideau was 19 at the time of Julia Ferguson's death. He never denied killing his victim, who was white. His lawyers contended he panicked after a botched bank robbery and stabbed her impulsively amid Louisiana's 1960s-era climate of racial hostility.

Rideau, who escaped death row in the 1970s when the U.S. Supreme Court outlawed then-existing death penalty laws, has had three previous convictions for Ferguson's death. The convictions were overturned on appeal.

Two governors turned him down for pardons, under strong pressure from citizens here, despite repeated board recommendations that he be released. In 2000, a federal appeals court said his original 1961 indictment was flawed because blacks were excluded from the grand jury.

In his fourth trial, Rideau's defense sought a manslaughter verdict. Prosecutors wanted the jury to find him guilty of murder to ensure Rideau would end his days in jail, barring a pardon.

Shortly before the jury was handed the case, Rideau's attorney Julian Murray suggested that racism had distorted the crime, keeping local passions inflamed. "You have to understand that time, and then it comes together," Murray said. "You think they would hesitate to exaggerate the facts of the case, to get the result they wanted?"

Ferguson's stabbing on a lonely rural road on Feb. 16, 1961, was "a terrible act, a criminal act, one for which he deserves great punishment, but not one for which he deserves to be locked up for the rest of his life," Murray said. "He did a terrible thing, but it wasn't murder."

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates
Japanese yen (Jan. 15) 100.00
South Korean won (Jan. 14) 1,011.00
U.S. dollars (Jan. 14) 1.0072
British pound (Jan. 14) .47386
Euro (Jan. 14) .7193

Commercial rates
Bahrain (Dinar) 3.77
Brazil (Real) 1.50
Canada (Dollar) 1.2021
Denmark (Krone) 5.6271
Euro (Pound) 5.9449
Euro 1.3200

Commercial rates
Hong Kong (Dollar) 1.792
Hungary (Forint) 1.3750
Israel (Shekel) .4241
Japan (Yen) 102.45
Kwasi (Dinar) 2.018

Commercial rates
Norway (Krone) 4.832
Philippines (Peso) 46.63
Saudi Arabia (Riyal) 3.7501
Singapore (Dollar) 1.331
South Korea (Won) 1,035.50
Switzerland (Franc) 1.4665
Thailand (Baht) 36.82
Turkey (New Lira) 4.005

(Military exchange rates are those used by customers at military facilities in the country of issuance of the currency. All figures are for U.S. dollars and the United Kingdom. Japan, South Korea, Germany, Netherlands, and the United Kingdom are purchasing British pounds in Germany. All other figures are for U.S. dollars. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when purchasing currency. All figures are for U.S. dollars and the United Kingdom. All figures are for U.S. dollars and the euro, which is the dollar-to-pound, and the euro, which is the dollar-to-euro.)

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Source: The Associated Press, Bank of America

Cents and Sensibility Money tip of the day Before tax deadline ...

CBS MarketWatch

NEW YORK — While the April 15 tax deadline is still three months away, there are some tax preparations you should be making now.

So says Tom Ochsenchlager, vice president of tax for the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. (He recommends that you make these five preparations before the end of January.)

■ Get organized. As your relevant tax materials arrive in the mail, "put them all in a single file," he says. Specifically, be on the lookout for W-2, 1099 and 1099B forms.

■ Make an appointment. If you plan to have someone else prepare your taxes, now is the time to approach him or her. "It's not unusual for preparers not to take on new clients after the end of this month," says Ochsenchlager.

■ Decide whether you'll take

the state sales tax or state income tax deduction. Under the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004, taxpayers can choose to deduct either their state and local sales tax, or their state and local income tax. Income tax likely will be the greater of the two; however, you might want to deduct your state and local sales tax if you've recently made one or more major purchases, such as a home, car, or boat.

■ Use TurboTax or H&R Block's TaxCut. The programs will help you crunch the numbers, and you can deduct the cost of software on your 2005 returns.

■ Review changes to tax laws. These include alterations to the tax credits for combat pay. You can read about these changes on the IRS' Web site at www.irs.gov.

Widow reflects on MLK's legacy

By ERRIN HAINES
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Sitting in the same spot where her husband preached equality more than four decades ago, Coretta Scott King said Saturday that Martin Luther King Jr.'s message is as relevant today as it was in the 1960s.

"It's as if he were writing for this period," King said in a rare public appearance on what would have been her husband's 76th birthday. "Nonviolence would work today, it would work 2,000 years from now, it would work 5,000 years from now."

"If Martin's philosophy had been lived out in Iraq, we wouldn't have bin Laden," she said.

King reminisced about her life with — and without — the slain civil rights leader in an appearance at Ebenezer Baptist Church.

Hundreds of people filled the pews and stood in the aisles to hear her speak in the same church where Martin Luther King Jr. was preacher from 1960 until his death in 1968 at age 39.

"I have many, many memories of being in this sanctuary," King said in a presentation in the form of an interview with PBS talk show host Tavis Smiley.

King's appearance was part of the 12th annual Hands on Atlanta Martin Luther King Jr. Service



Tavis Smiley, right, host of *The Tavis Smiley Show*, talks with Coretta Scott King, widow of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. The show was taped before a live audience Saturday.

Summit. The event continues through Monday.

Dressed in a red suit and wearing her signature coif, King said her husband's "moral voice" is missing from American society but she is committed to spreading his teachings — a task she said she embraced during her marriage.

"As we were thrust into the cause, it was my cause, too," she said. "I married the man and the cause. I realized I, too, could be

killed."

King said she helped her husband through times of disappointment when he grew weary of his fight for equality, adding that he was frequently depressed when people would riot.

"I would tell him, 'You're the only one who's making any sense right now,'" she said. "I tried to think of positive, uplifting and true things to say."

After King's death, the King

Center, a memorial and resource center honoring him, became Coretta Scott King's legacy and vision, along with raising her children.

"When he died, I knew I didn't have his abilities and skills, but I have my own," she said.

Marni Rogers, 34, said attending the event was an inspirational and educational experience.

"To see her in Ebenezer being interviewed was a historical moment, very moving," she said.

Search team finds body of one victim in avalanche

The Associated Press

PARK CITY, Utah — Search teams digging through the tons of snow found the body Sunday of one of the five people believed buried by a powerful avalanche in an area that skiers had been warned to avoid.

The body of a man who appeared to be in his 20s was found under 4 feet of snow after trained dogs alerted the teams searching the area of Friday's slide, Summit County Sheriff Dave Edmunds said at a news conference.

The body was not immediately identified, though Edmunds said the man's clothing matched that of a missing snowboarder.

The only person identified as having been caught by the avalanche was Shane Maixner, 28, of Sandpoint, Idaho. A friend told a 911 dispatcher that he saw Maixner being caught by the cascading mass of snow, Edmunds said earlier.

If Sunday's sweep failed to find any additional bodies, authorities planned to bring in machines to take away layers of snow, Edmunds said.

AT
HOME..

AT
PLAY..

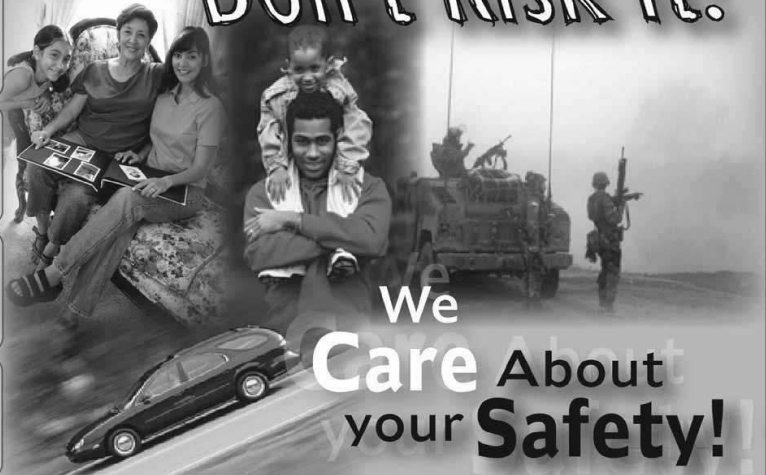
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OPINION

Long march to justice in Philadelphia, Miss.

PHILADELPHIA, Miss. — "A reputed Ku Klux Klansman was arrested late Thursday on murder charges in the 1964 killing of three voter-registration volunteers ... a case that is one of the last pieces of unfinished business from the civil rights era."

—Associated Press, Jan. 6, 2005.

Every time I see Philadelphia, Miss., in the news, I think of the cottonmouth moccasin in an ice chest used by journalists covering civil-rights marches during some of the ugliest days of our nation's history. The moccasin, I soon discovered, was not nearly as poisonous or deadly as the local Klansmen who terrorized and murdered civil-rights workers, sometimes in collusion with local law-enforcement officials.

Local racists put the snake in the chest when reporters and photographers stopped for ice at a country store just outside Philadelphia, the seat of Neshoba County. After that, I decided it was better to drink a warm Coke than to open an ice chest. As a young intern reporter for Newsweek magazine, I found myself in Philadelphia almost two years after the 1964 murder of three civil-rights workers whose bodies were buried in an earthen dam. The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. led a ragged but brave column of marchers to Philadelphia's town square for a rally. As local whites, held back by state police, hurled racial epithets and rocks and bottles into the

crowd of civil-rights activists, King raised his powerful voice and said he could sense the presence of the murderers of the three civil-rights workers in the square.

A voice rang out from behind the police lines. "We're right over here," someone shouted, as the white hecklers laughed and hooted.

I had not a doubt that the killers were in voice range. And I had no reason to believe that the murderers of James Chaney, a 21-year-old black Mississippian, and two white New Yorkers, Andrew Goodman, 20, and Michael Schwerner, 24, would ever be brought to justice for a hateful crime that outraged the nation.

In 1967, the U.S. Justice Department brought civil-rights prosecutions against 18 suspects, including reputed Klansman Edgar Ray Killen, Neshoba County Sheriff Lawrence Rainey and Deputy Cecil Price, after Mississippi officials showed little interest in seeking murder indictments in the case. Seven were convicted and sentenced to prison terms from three to 10 years. None served more than six years. Killen escaped conviction by an 11-to-1 jury deadlock. The holdout was a woman who said she could never convict a preacher of the Gospel, which Killen claimed to be.

In 1999, the Mississippi attorney general, after an investigation by the Clarion-Ledger newspaper in Jackson, broke new ground in the case. This month, Killen, now 79, was arrested and charged with the murder of Chaney, Goodman and Schwerner. Other arrests could follow, but justice can never be fully served as long as even one of the killers goes free.

For 41 years, the men who beat and shot the three civil-rights workers have gotten on with their small, twisted lives. They raised

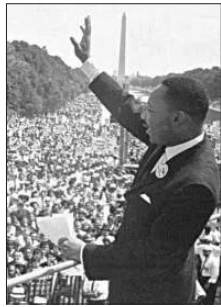


Edgar Ray Killen — shown leaving Neshoba County Jail in Philadelphia, Miss., Jan. 12, on bond — is charged with murdering three civil-rights workers in 1964. The reputed Klansman is to stand trial on March 28.

families and went to church. Some, no doubt, already have gone to their graves, and those still living have become old men.

You have to wonder what it must feel like to come to the end of life burdened by an evil secret that ultimately will be judged, if not in this world, in the next. ...

Not surprisingly, some Mississippians were quoted in news reports as saying they



The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. — shown after delivering his "I Have a Dream" speech in Washington in 1963 — told fellow marchers in 1964 in Philadelphia, Miss., that he sensed the presence of murderers.

see no point in reopening the case after all these years, that nothing good can come from it. But as usual, John Lewis, the Georgia congressman and civil-rights hero, said it best: "It is never, ever too late to bring about justice and send the strongest possible message that bigotry and hate will not be tolerated in our society."

Phillip Gailley is editor of editorials at the St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times.

‘Pilot error’ explanation leaves full story in its wake

BY PETER GARRISON

Ever heard of Sten Molin? He was the pilot whose overaggressive use of the rudder pedals of an American Airlines Airbus brought the airplane down on Long Island land in 2001 with the loss of 265 lives.

His name was in all the papers. The National Transportation Safety Board said it was his fault.

Close reading of the NTSB report, released late last month, reveals, however, that Molin was merely a convenient fall guy. The real cause of the accident was a conspiracy of ignorance persistently tolerated by the Federal Aviation Administration, the airlines and the airplane manufacturers. The pilot was the last link in a chain of causes that made him as much the innocent victim as anyone else who died in that airplane.

Molin, whose colleagues described as a smooth, accurate and above-average pilot, was just doing what he had been trained to do, and under circumstances in which he and all other pilots believed that nothing they did could possibly hurt the airplane. That a few not-very-hard kicks on the Airbus' unusually sensitive rudder pedals could actually break the vertical fin off the plane, dooming it to certain loss of control, was a fact that only some aeronautical engineers, and a few oddly reticent bureaucrats at the FAA, understood.

Federal aviation regulations prescribe the strength of every part of an airplane. Some requirements are based on turbulence, others on maneuvers that the pilot can perform. Because the strains that maneuvers impose on an airplane increase as the plane's speed increases, engineers select a certain speed, called the maneuvering speed, as an upper

boundary. Before the Airbus accident, nearly all pilots believed that as long as an airplane was flying at or below the maneuvering speed, nothing they could do would break it.

That belief was universal in part because it was so logical. After all, what would be the point of publishing a "maneuvering speed" if it were not a safe speed for maneuvering? Besides, the FAA explicitly supported it. The government's own Pilot's Handbook of Aeronautical Knowledge says "any combination of flight control usage (below the maneuvering speed), including full deflection of the controls ... should not create an excessive loss."

Airlines and manufacturers had developed training curricula designed to encourage pilots, who normally fly with a velvet

touch to keep passengers comfortable, to use all the controls unthinkingly in certain emergencies. Sometime before the Airbus crash, when an instructor pilot asked Molin why he had used the rudder so vigorously during a simulated wake turbulence encounter, Molin had cited an American Airlines pilot-education program that specifically encouraged doing so.

Molin's Airbus was below the maneuvering speed when it broke apart. Its fin came off because he stepped on the rudder pedals alternately, in quick succession, in an attempt to steady the aircraft after it had been jolted by the wake of another airliner. Strangely, federal regulations require the vertical fin to be strong enough to withstand full deflection of the rudder — the movable rear portion of the surface — only when the airplane is flying straight ahead, but not

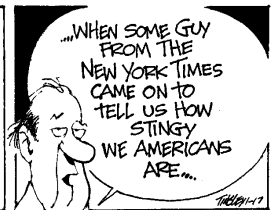
when it's "yawed" — that is, pointed a few degrees to one side or the other. The effect of alternating rudder inputs is just that — to yaw the airplane. Yet no pilot's handbook, no simulator curriculum and no FAA publication mentioned the possible dire consequences before the Airbus crash.

Neither the regulations nor the airplanes have changed, nor will they, but there's been a good deal of verbal backing and filling in the three years since the accident. Handbooks and curricula have been revised, articles have been written and bulletins have been circulated to pilots pointing out the limited protection provided by the maneuvering speed. Too late for Sten Molin, though, and for his fellow victims of a pervasive and dangerous misunderstanding.

Peter Garrison writes a monthly accident analysis column for Flying magazine. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



FACES

Love regains custody of daughter

Singer Courtney Love has regained full custody of her 11-year-old daughter, her attorney said.

Love, 40, lost custody of **Frances Bean Cobain**, her daughter with late Nirvana singer **Kurt Cobain**, in 2003 after she overdosed on painkillers in front of the girl. The overdose occurred after Love allegedly broke into the home of her ex-boyfriend, music producer **Jim Barber**.

Her daughter had been staying with Love's stepfather and sister, but Love had daily contact with the girl.

Love regained custody Monday through a judge's ruling, said Love's attorney, **Howard Weisman**.

Love, former lead singer of the group **Hole**, in a statement released by her attorney said: "Life is about choices, and I've chosen to move forward with my life in a healthy and positive way."



Love

Opinions split on Moore in hometown

Oscar on the shelf or not, **Michael Moore** is not getting much respect at his old high school in **Davison, Mich.**

Despite his fame and many honors, the filmmaker has been rejected all four times that he has been nominated for **Davison High School's Hall of Fame**.

"Would you want him as a role model? Would you want your son or daughter to be like him?" asked **Don Hammond**, a member of the Hall of Fame selection committee. "I haven't talked to anybody yet who's for him. The word to describe **Michael Moore** is embarrassing. He embarrasses everybody."

Ryan Eashoo disagrees. The 1997 **Davison High** graduate has worked 80 hours the last two weeks and \$600 of his own money trying to get Moore elected.

"We've been blacklisted," Eashoo, 25, told the **Detroit Free Press**. "I'm a huge **Michael Moore** fan. He's a great producer, great filmmaker, always sticking up for minorities. He's kind of an underdog."

So far, Eashoo has 300 signed nominations of Moore. His goal is 2,000 by Feb. 1. The committee meets Feb. 11 to choose its inductees.

Clarkson honored in Big Easy

Patricia Clarkson, back in her native Louisiana to play a governor's adviser in a remake of the film "All the King's Men," was celebrated like royalty when the mayor designated a day in her honor.

New Orleans Mayor **Ray Nagin**, a former high school classmate of Clarkson, declared Jan. 13 **Patricia Clarkson Day** and held a written proclamation that referred to the actress as "the Queen of Hollywood South."

"It is truly a dream," Clarkson, 45, said Thursday. "I'm shooting an incredibly beautiful film in my beautiful hometown and it's quite overwhelming. Who would have thought, many, many, many years ago, as I was performing on the **O. Perry Walker [High School] stage**... that I would be here today... with a day?"

New Orleans has become a frequent film location in recent years since state lawmakers approved tax credits for the industry. Nagin has sought to build on that by promoting the city as "Hollywood South."

"All the King's Men" also stars **Sean Penn**.



Clarkson

Lords is face of cosmetics ad campaign

Traci Lords is putting her best face forward as the star of **Duprey Cosmetics' 2005** advertising campaign.

"Traci has incredible sex appeal," said **Duprey** co-founder **Brian Duprey**. "Her look can be ethereal, flirty or downright dangerous. She's the ultimate temptress."

Lords, 35, filmed the first commercial in Los Angeles earlier this week in a series of sexy ads featuring the face of the former porn star.

Last year, Lords published her autobiography, "Traci Lords: Underneath it All," and appeared as a celebrity judge on **IFC's "Ultimate Film Fanatic."**

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

Sitting down with 'Coach Cool'

Samuel L. Jackson takes to court in real-life flick

BY COLLEEN LONG
The Associated Press

SAMUEL L. JACKSON is flippancy, brushing off his expansive film career, and cool-guy image.

His casual clothes fit the attitude: black running jacket, jeans, white sneakers and just a hint of bling in a diamond-tinged watch and a dog tag with his initials around his neck. His nearly impervious ego is surprising, but with nearly 80 films under his belt, he doesn't really need to care what people think of him. With Jackson's articulate nature, along with a graying mustache and glasses, he could pass for a teacher, maybe one who taught **How to Be Hip** 101.

The 56-year-old actor's latest film, "Coach Carter," is based on the real-life story of **Ken Carter**, a basketball coach in an inner-city high school in **Richmond, Calif.** Carter benched his whole team because some varsity players weren't academically performing up to standards he set in a contract.

Jackson's no fool. He knows his movie isn't going to elicit any big change in how education is generally reviled and athletics revered in schools, but he's OK with it. He's happy as long as a few kids see the film and decide they want to study more, or figure out that an education is something invaluable.

What did you think of Carter when you heard about him?

Jackson: I thought it was a refreshing change from always hearing about winning at any cost. I liked that about what he was doing, putting the idea out there that education is worth something, that it's important. That it will get you somewhere. And when the movie idea came my way, I thought it was socially relevant.

Do you agree with his methods?

Jackson: Sure, in some ways. Somewhere along the way we lost the idea of a "student-athlete." They have become "athlete-students." But winning on the floor is a reward for doing well in the classroom. ... What do you think about the idea that inner-city kids are set up to fail?

Jackson: That's true. It's the whole idea that if you show up, you pass on. It's also that they need to see there's an upside to being smart, not just being athletic and hip. I don't

think teachers are living up to the standards they should be. They tend to service the kids who pay attention, they don't want to deal with the kids that don't get the grades or that have the problems or that act out. In the city schools, they're also looking out for themselves and their well-being.

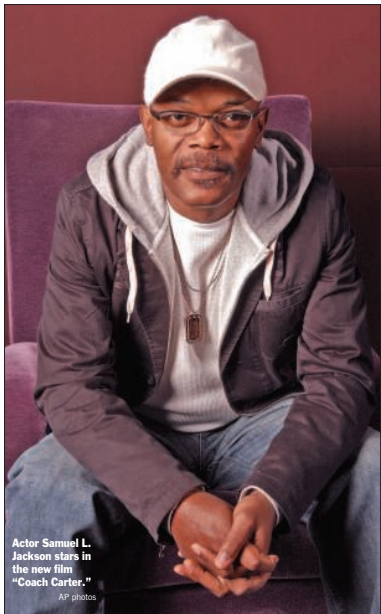
I have some teacher friends that wouldn't be too happy to hear you say that.

Jackson: I have teacher friends too, and they are goal-oriented and good at motivating their students,

and will work with the kids that need the extra help instead of ignoring them, but I think that's the minority.

Do you feel like you have to be a role model because of your fame?

Jackson: No, I think I need to be a responsible human being, and do things I believe in, and I help out people but I don't do that publicly. It's not my responsibility as an actor to tell you who to vote for, or what cause to believe in or who to give money to. It makes me crazy to hear people in my profession preach about that sort of thing.



Actor **Samuel L. Jackson** stars in the new film "Coach Carter."

AP photos

Dogfight trial

PA PITTSBURGH — A man who mailed pit bull fight videotapes to government investigators is the first person to stand trial under a 1999 federal animal cruelty statute signed by President Clinton.

The lawyer for Robert Stevens, 61, of Pittsview, Va., doesn't dispute that Stevens sold the tapes, some of which he nar-

rated. Instead, federal public defender Michael Novaro said during Stevens' trial that his client shouldn't be targeted because the intent of the law was to prevent "wanton cruelty to animals designed to appeal to a prurient interest in sex." Clinton signed the law after complaints about videos in which small animals were pictured being crushed under the feet of women wearing spiked heels.

Gas explosion at mall

IL CHICAGO — A natural gas explosion overturned cars and blasted a hole in a parking lot at a shopping mall on the city's southwest side, authorities said. Ten people were hurt.

The cause of the explosion at the Ford City Mall was unknown, authorities said. Utility crews were on the scene to shut down gas service to the area. Ambulances and other emergency crews also responded.

Three of the injured were taken to the hospital in serious condition, while the others were in fair or good condition, Chicago Fire Department spokeswoman Rosa Escareno said.

Halfway house shooting

MD BALTIMORE — At least one gunman entered a halfway house, shot to death three residents and seriously wounded a fourth man, who escaped by apparently jumping out a window, police said.

Investigators believe one of the victims might have been killed over a debt. The others may have been shot because they were witnesses, police said.

The three men who died in the shootings lived at the home, which serves people recovering from drug or alcohol addiction. Each was shot at least once and was found in a seated position.

The fourth man had a gunshot wound to his back and other injuries. The identities were not released. Police were still searching for suspects.

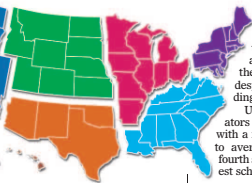
Rebel flags over graves

NC CHARLOTTE — A Confederate battle flag flying over the graves of Civil War soldiers in a city-owned cemetery should be placed in a glass case and flown only on designated days, according to draft recommendations from a city committee.

The group also suggested replacing the battle flag at Elmwood Cemetery with another Confederate flag, such as the N.C. State Flag of 1861.

The Charlotte City Council still must approve the recommendations, but flag supporters oppose what they've heard so far.

"If this is their recommendation,



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

we will fight it," said Mark Alexander Palmer, who has relatives buried at Elmwood. "This flag represents what these men fought and died under. It represents their beliefs. They have the right to have it flow over their headstones."

Drill sergeant sentenced

OK FORT STILL — A drill sergeant was convicted of taking bribes from trainees under his command in which soldiers could buy "insurance" to guarantee they would pass basic training.

Sgt. 1st Class Larry T. Jones, 35, was given a five-year prison sentence following his conviction on nine charges and 18 specifications that included bribery, assault, conspiracy and making false statements to investigators.

Teacher strike possible

MO ST. LOUIS — A union board representing St. Louis teachers voted to reject a district contract proposal, bringing the possibility of a walkout.

The executive board of the St. Louis Teachers and School Related Personnel Union Local 420



Young re-enactor

Adam Botts, 7, of Iman, S.C., plays with Brandon Thomas, 8, of Gaffney, S.C., at Battle of Cowpens 224th Anniversary Celebration. The fathers of both boys are in the South Carolina Rangers re-enactment group.

voted 10-to-1 against the district's final offer, with one abstention. If union members agree with the board, they will go on strike — despite a state law forbidding a walkout.

Union and district negotiators have been meeting with a federal mediator to try to avert what would be the fourth strike in the state's largest school district since 1973.

Russian mob heist?

NY NEW YORK — A gang of armed robbers from the former Soviet Union took in more than \$1 million from heists including the robbery of a Manhattan jewelry store, according to court documents.

The gang is accused of storming into the store in July, brandishing guns, smashing glass and taking about \$1 million in jewelry, according to an FBI complaint.

FBI agents said they matched DNA from blood left at the scene to a profile of Gidon Abramov, whom they called a ranking Russian Mafia member and leader of the robbers. His car was ticketed near the jewelry store on the day of the robbery, the complaint said.

Abramov was arrested last month. His attorney did not immediately return a phone call seeking comment.

Fewer turkeys raised

WV MORGANTOWN — West Virginia farmers raised 1.1 million fewer turkeys for the dinner table in 2004 than the year before, but the launch of a new interstate cooperative in Hinton, Va., should help stem the decline.

West Virginia growers raised 3.2 million turkeys last year, down 26 percent from 4.3 million in 2003, according to the state Department of Agriculture. The drop was in marked contrast to nationwide production, which was down only 4 percent, from 274 million birds in 2003 to about 264 million last year.

But agriculture spokesman Buddy Davidson said the decline in West Virginia is not a long-term trend, and growers could see gains this year.

Police officer convicted

MI DETROIT — A federal jury convicted a police officer of stealing illegal drugs and distributing them to people who agreed to be shown using them on his commercial Web site, the U.S. Attorney's office said.

The jury convicted Ceire Campbell, 31, of distributing crack cocaine and heroin and conspiracy to distribute them. Both charges carry maximum sentences of 20 years in prison.

Prosecutors said Campbell stole the drugs from Detroit police raids that occurred between June 2002 and May 2003, when a relative of Campbell's notified police.

Agents raided Campbell's home and found drugs and a paraphernalia, a stolen handgun and waivers the drug users signed to permit footage of them to be used on the Internet.

Campbell has been suspended without pay since his arrest. Police spokesman James Tate said Campbell will be removed from the force based on his conviction.



Puddle surfing Tyler Smith skim boards across a puddle at Mississippi State University in Starkville, Miss. Smith, from Long Beach, Miss., is a student at MSU.



Frigid determination Kristie Arend of Louisville, Colo., climbs in the Ouray Ice Park during the first full day of the 10th annual Ouray Ice Festival in Ouray, Colo.



Retro hot dogs Nick Juronville of New Orleans looks over a trio of Doggie Diner heads parked outside an art gallery and wine bar for an exhibit opening in San Francisco. The characters were once the figureheads atop the two dozen Doggie Diner hot dog stands that existed from 1949 to 1986 in the San Francisco Bay area.



Class act St. Thomas School students, front from left, Karl Dockendorf, Madeline Mockler, Amanda Rickes, Marisa Emers and Katlyn Neises take advantage of the gentle snowfall to catch some snowflakes on their tongues in Madison, S.D.



Tax excitement

Drew Batson, of Liberty Tax Service, drums up business outside the company's office in Kansas City, Kan.

Child molester freed

TX DALLAS — A former YMCA camp counselor convicted of molesting 40 children and later castrated voluntarily was set to be freed from jail after a judge threw out the newest indictments against him.

District Judge John Nelms ruled that a prosecutor's delay in moving the charges through the courts harmed the chances of a fair trial for David Wayne Jones, who pleaded guilty in 1991 in exchange for 15 years in prison.

The newest charges involved abuse that allegedly occurred in the early 1990s. Prosecutors brought the charges after the judge dismissed a similar charge, also because prosecutors waited too long to pursue it.

Prosecutors said they will appeal.

Electric cow power

VT MONTPELIER — The 1,500 cows at Blue Spruce Farm in Bridport are producing more than just milk. They're generating electricity.

The methane gas from their manure is being used to produce electricity for Vermont's largest utility.

The manure is heated up and then produces methane gas as it breaks down. The gas is collected and used to power a generator, which sends electricity onto the power grid.

So far about 1,000 customers have signed on to pay about 4 cents more per kilowatt-hour for their electricity to support the farmers. Residential households pay about 12 cents per kilowatt-hour normally.

Fatal car wreck

VA RICHMOND — A car traveling at a high rate of speed hit a tree and broke into two pieces in Chesterfield County, killing all three people inside, police said.

"The force of the impact was phenomenal," Chesterfield Police Capt. Karl Leonard said, adding that the car hit a tree in the median, throwing all three people from the vehicle.

The victims, all from suburban Richmond, were identified by police as Brandon L. Fugett, 22; Paul D. Hines, 23; and Brett K. Jones Jr., 23.

Woman hit by car

NE LINCOLN — A driver clipped a pregnant woman and crashed into a Salvation Army Family Store and Donation Center after her foot slipped off the brake of her car, police say.

The 69-year-old woman's vehicle rammed through the concrete and glass, hitting Carrie Harris, 26, who is 5 months pregnant. Harris was treated for cuts on her elbow and a leg injury.

Student withdraws suit

MO JOPLIN — A student barred from wearing a gay pride-themed T-shirt at his southwest Missouri high school withdrew his federal lawsuit against the Webb City school district.

The controversy involving Brad Mathewson's choice of clothing — including a shirt that said "I'm gay and I'm proud" — deflated with his withdrawal from Webb City High School last month.

"The issue was moot," said Terry Sexton, an attorney for Mathewson.

Mathewson had several confrontations with school officials in the fall. He was suspended Oct. 27 but returned to school Nov. 2 after promising not to wear gay-themed T-shirts until the issue could be resolved.

The school district has said it prohibited the T-shirts because they were disruptive and therefore a violation of school dress code.

School cell phone ban

WA WRENTHAM — Along with chewing gum and notes in class, cell phones have been banned in Wrentham's two elementary schools, adding the town to a growing number of school systems that have cracked down on cell phone use.

Phones in class mainly has been a problem in high schools around the state, which typically ban them in class, but let students carry them in. Wrentham teachers heard cell phones ringing in fifth- and sixth-grade classrooms for the first time before winter break, prompting the ban.

Naked jogger zapped

AR WEST MEMPHIS — For months, officers have been getting reports about a man making late-night runs in the buff. Police said they think they got their mystery jogger.

Fate Patterson, 39, of West Memphis was arrested after he ran past a police car and failed to stop when he was ordered to do so by officers. Police chased him and were able to rein him in by using a Taser.

Patterson was charged with indecent exposure, fleeing and resisting arrest.

Mike Allen, assistant chief of the West Memphis police department, said that it did not initially appear that the man was mentally ill. He did not disclose his reasons for running without his clothes.

AL FLORENCE — Gary Gallien is a house painter. But earlier this week he became a dog catcher — literally.

Working with a crew at an apartment complex in Florence, Gallien caught a small dog as it fell from a fifth-floor balcony.

Gallien said he had stepped outside the building when he heard a woman scream and saw a white, furry object falling toward him.

"Somebody hollered and I looked up and just stuck out my arms and caught it," he said. "I caught it like a football. I was fixing to run for a touchdown with it." Gallien said he did not know where the dog came from, but he took it back to the fifth floor and turned it loose in the hall.

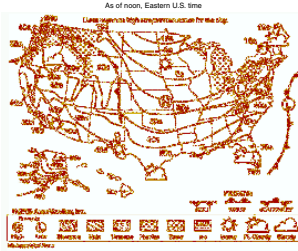
Suicide rates addressed

AK FAIRBANKS — Auditors are recommending that the Statewide Suicide Prevention Council created in 2001 to address Alaska's high suicide rate should continue its work through 2009 instead of ending its work in June. Alaska's suicide rate consistently ranks as one of the highest in the United States. In 2004, there were more than 150 documented suicides in the state, the highest ever.

Stories and photos from wire services



Colorful sunset A solitary windmill stands against a blazing sunrise 50 miles north of Roswell, N.M.



Scheduled to **ETS** or **PCS**?

Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.

STARS & STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper

Horoscope

The moon in Taurus spurs a need for luxurious indulgence. Whether it's caviar or Egyptian sheets with a crazy thread count, what was once optional now seems like a must-have. Quality is king, but appetites are stimulated to such a degree that you want quantity, too. Don't buy on credit — by the end of the week there's nothing to show for it.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (January 17)

The seriousness that has helped you focus your power through the years is being transmuted into a more playful energy. Loved ones have fun with the change and turn with renewed affection. Turn wisdom and education into profits this spring. If you continue to be financially shrewd, a big purchase is yours in April. Love signs are Libra and Gemini.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

What you've been striving for will reach its culmination very soon — so don't stop now! If you're waiting for an answer from someone, go ahead and call. It's no time to be a wallflower. Love sparkles anew.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

You are focused on transformation. But choose your role model very carefully. Attractive but selfish people have little to teach you and will waste your time. Hold out for true-blue loyalists.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

You'll be teased and enticed into oddball situations, and thank goodness, you've got such persuasive people around you. At the end of the day, you'll look back and realize you wouldn't have missed it for the world.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

The stars check in to be sure you're well rested after a past lesson. Family dynamics still affect how you think of yourself, but the story is different from what it used to be. Get it down on paper so you can examine it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

You come across intimidating people — and it takes a lot to intimidate you!

When you get that feeling that you want to run five miles and read books to make yourself smarter, you'll know this is someone worth getting to know.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

The opportunity to risk is featured. Business gets to the point where you simply must decide to be bold or withdraw completely. Anything done halfway will stunt your profit margin.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

You feel you've got a secret super-hero identity quietly working behind the scenes, and yes, you save the day. Humble, you won't

feels up to your amazing feats, either. Private victory is no less sweet.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

What someone said to you long ago still rings in your ears. Test it out now once and for all. If it's true, keep it. If not, toss it out like the garbage it is. Tonight, someone new sparkles in your eyes.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Move over, there are new folks coming into your world. It's probably a co-worker or someone who just moved into town. It takes seeing someone truly green to realize how far you've come in your arena.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You're ready to meet the challenge, especially if it's bigger than you are. Some call you crazy, but time will show that you're the sane one. Crazy is when you don't rise to the occasion while the minutes of your life tick away.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

It makes you feel warm and happy when others notice subtle improvements you've made to your appearance through diet and/or exercise. Each compliment fans the flames, inspiring you to reach your goal.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Your creative project is taking shape. The prize is within your grasp. Just don't neglect your day job while you're dreaming big, or your finances get ugly. Advertising and self-promotion work magic on your bank account.

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Holiday Mathis



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



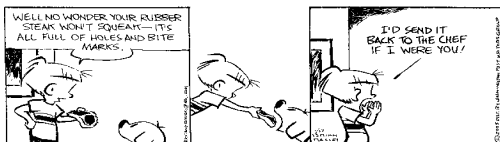
Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red Rover



Better or Worse



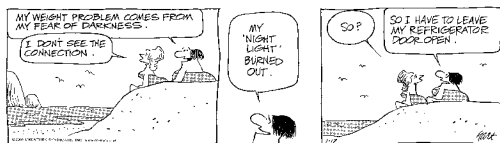
Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



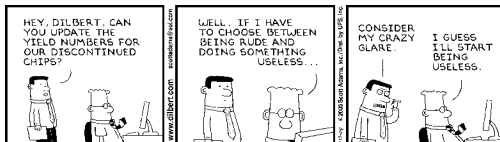
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



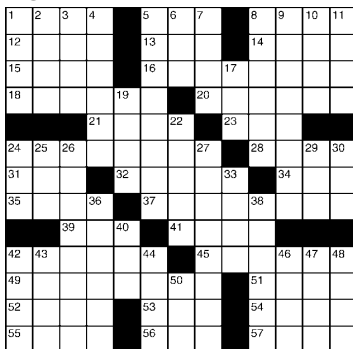
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Piglet's papa
- 5 Group of whales
- 8 Netting
- 12 Roof overhang
- 13 Ostrich's cousin
- 14 "Turn Around, Look —"
- 15 Dance lesson
- 16 Carnival attraction
- 18 Otolaryngology subject
- 20 Blueprint
- 21 Actress Elisabeth
- 23 Zodiac member
- 24 Revolvers, e.g.
- 28 Graft —
- 31 Expert
- 32 Humdinger
- 34 Under the weather
- 35 Cribbage scorers
- 37 Pavement
- 39 Ewe's mate
- 41 Croft of "Tomb Raider"
- 42 Old sayings
- 45 Spy
- 49 Take out of action
- 51 Indigent
- 52 Currier's partner
- 53 Part of UCLA
- 54 "Do — others ..."
- 55 Speedy
- 56 Have bills
- 57 Disarray

Down

- 1 Tops
- 2 Solemn promise
- 3 State with certainty
- 4 Rest
- 5 Body English, e.g.
- 6 Parisian pal
- 7 Newsman Roger
- 8 Hoi polloi
- 9 African nation
- 10 Urban pall
- 11 Chopped
- 17 Wet wiggler
- 19 Moby's pursuer
- 22 Internet correspondence
- 24 Potential syrap
- 25 Lemieux milieu
- 26 Brings into disrepute
- 27 Khartoum residents
- 29 Right angle
- 30 Wapiti
- 33 Actress Garr
- 36 Most wise
- 38 Yuma mazuma?
- 40 Brooks or Blanc
- 42 "Clueless" expletive
- 43 Prima donna
- 44 Missile shelter
- 46 Radius, for one
- 47 A whole bunch
- 48 Cupid's alter ego
- 50 Promptly

Answer to Previous Puzzle



1-17

CRYPTOQUIP

CO GDT KTH X BDOH
PDJLF DJLF X BXMXI
JLRHXNML C RTLBB CH

PDTMI NL X PLMLFG PXX.
Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHEN SOMEONE BECOMES DULL DURING THE WINTER, I GUESS HE COULD BE JEJUNE IN JANUARY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals C

Alcohol and guns never mix well

Dear Abby: My fiancé's best friend, "Ted," accidentally shot himself in the head in front of another friend, "Matt."

Matt blames himself for the accident, even though Ted survived and is doing OK. Matt and Ted were drinking and looking at Ted's gun. The gun has a history of not ejecting the bullet when you want it to. Ted looked to see if the gun had any bullets in it, and it didn't, so Ted put the barrel to his head and pulled the trigger.

Matt feels that Ted blames him for what happened, although nobody blames him. It was just a stupid accident.

Are there any support groups out there that my fiancé and I can get Matt into?

Caring Friend in Montana
Dear Caring Friend: Among the rules of responsible gun ownership are never to point the barrel at anyone and never to

presume that the gun is empty. Ted is lucky his stupidity didn't cost him his life. If there is any support group I'd recommend for Matt — and Ted, too, as soon as he's fully recovered — it would be AA. It appears both of them have a serious alcohol problem.

Dear Abby



Dear Abby: Please print this cautionary tale of infidelity. It involves out-of-town professional conferences.

In my case, my husband of 35 years confessed that he'd had an "emotional affair" with a single, professional colleague that endured for 20 years. While it was never sexual, they wrote each other letters and love poems — boxes of them. (She addressed them to his business P.O. box.) They also exchanged gifts.

The usual warning signs of infidelity were absent. There were no unexplained absences, no telephone receipts, no money

missing from our joint account, no lipstick on his collars.

The only clues were my husband's defensiveness.

My husband is ashamed and remorseful now. We're finally seeing a therapist, who is helping us rebuild our marriage.

My advice is that if your mate is less than enthusiastic about having you accompany him or her on trips to professional gatherings, be suspicious.

— **Sadder But Wiser**
in the Midwest

Dear Sadder: As your letter shows, emotional affairs can be as devastating to a marriage as sexual ones. Although your spouse's affair occurred at business conferences, I receive many letters and e-mails regarding online affairs where the people don't always meet in person. The time and energy poured into these relationships are stolen from the spouse and family.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can e-mail at <http://www.uspspress.com/dearabby> Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argillon

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CEEP



MUSIN



TANGOU



HINSAB



Print answer here:



(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: OXIDE CEASE PURVEY DEVOUR
Answer: What the photographer feared when she shopped for a swimsuit — OVEREXPOSURE



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Don't risk further molestation

Dear Annie: Last night, my life was turned upside down. My 14-year-old daughter, "Cindy," woke me up and said her stepdad, "Chuck," had touched her. There was no actual sex involved, thank God. I confronted Chuck immediately. He said he knew it was inappropriate and stopped right away.

Chuck was molested during his childhood, as was I, so we know how wrong this is. Chuck and I put all the blame on him, which is where it belongs. Before this happened, I never thought I would allow any man to get away with something like this, but now I'm not so sure what to do.

The three of us have a wonderful life. However, Cindy recently has been paying a lot of attention to Chuck. She is home-schooled and doesn't see many other children her age. After Cindy told me what Chuck did, I said I would kick him out, but she asked me not to. She said she

Annie's Mailbox



loves both of us and that she is fine. Annie, I know my daughter, and she really is fine. Chuck and I are the ones struggling to come to terms with this.

All of this behavior is odd to me. Is it possible that Cindy is really OK?

So do I kick Chuck out, like I said I would? Or, do we find a way to work through this? — **Wishing It Was Yesterday in California**

Dear Wishing: It's understandable that you are searching for a way to make this less serious, so your life can continue as it was, but it's not that simple. Chuck's family history makes it more likely that he could do this again, and Cindy may feel obligated to submit to his advances in order not to break up her family.

We strongly urge you to get family counseling, so you understand the risks and can work out the best solution. It may be best to separate until you do. Also, find activities for Cindy in the afternoon so she can meet other

teenagers and won't EVER be left alone with Chuck. Good luck.

Dear Annie: With the cold and flu season here, I was wondering about the appropriateness of nose blowing in public, especially in my office. There are a few people who feel comfortable blowing their nose while standing at my desk, and I feel quite disgusted by it.

Is there a rule of etiquette in reference to this situation?

— **Tampa, Fla.**
Dear Tampa: You bet, a sneeze cannot be helped, but deliberately blowing one's nose should be done as privately as possible. Tell these oblivious co-workers sweetly, "I hope you will understand if I ask you not to blow your nose near my desk. I'm absolutely phobic about getting sick."

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sauer, longtime editors of *Dear Abby's* Landmark column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

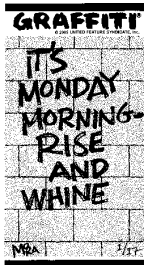
Family Circus



1-17

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"I like writing on the computer. If you make a mistake, you can just back up over it."



Demis the Menace



"THE JUNGLE BELLS IN DECEMBER, AND JUNGLE BELLS IN JANUARY."

© Gary Larson

The Far Side



"She, Lillian! There's more. I've named the male with the big ears Bozo, and he is surely the nerd of the social group—a primate bimbo, if you will."

Non Sequitur



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January 20th - 22nd, 2005

Host: Pastor Phyllis M. Lawson



*Pursue, for thou shalt overtake
them, and without fail recover all*

(Sam 1:3)

BEHIND ENEMY LINES

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Dear Ladies,

Last year, we broke out of the matrix! We found out that we're the one, and for those that are still caught up in the matrix, we're connecting up at the Real Women's Conference January 20 - 22, 2005 and going "Behind Enemy Lines! No Guts! No Glory!"

In Isaiah 42:22 in the New Century Translation it says: There are a people that have been defeated and robbed. They are trapped in pits or locked up in prison. Like robbers, enemies have taken them away, and there is no one to save them. Enemies carried them off, and no one said, "Bring them back!"

But, the Lord has given me a word of 1 Samuel 30:8. *Pursue! for thou shalt surely overtake them (the enemy), and without fail recover all.* It is so important in these last days for us to be in the offense, the position of attack and not the defense. We are the ones that are pursuing, overtaking, and without fail recovering all.

We have a powerful ministry team that will minister to you in the Word and the power of the Holy Spirit. We believe that many will be healed spiritually, mentally, and physically and made whole.

So I encourage you to come out and be a part of something

that will impact the lives of women dramatically. We have the "Guts!" and God is going to get the "Glory." I'm believing to see you there.

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NFL scoreboard

Playoffs

Wild-card Playoffs	
Saturday, Jan. 8	
St. Louis 27, Seattle 20	
N.Y. Jets 26, San Diego 17, OT	
Sunday, Jan. 9	
Indianapolis 49, Denver 24	
Minnesota 31, Green Bay 17	
Divisional Playoffs	
Saturday, Jan. 15	
Pittsburgh 30, N.Y. Jets 17, OT	
Atlanta 7, St. Louis 17	
Sunday, Jan. 16	
Minnesota at Philadelphia	
Indianapolis at New England	
Conference Championships	
Sunday, Jan. 23	
NFC: Atlanta vs. Minnesota or Philadelphia	
AFC: Pittsburgh vs. Indianapolis or New England	

Super Bowl

Sunday, Feb. 6

Jacksonville, Fla.

AFC vs. NFC

Saturday

Steelers 20, Jets 17 (OT)

N.Y. Jets 10 0 7 0 0-17
Pittsburgh 10 0 0 7 0-20

First Quarter

Pit—FG Reed 45, 5:18.
Pit—Betts 1 run (Brien kick), 1:58.

Second Quarter

NY—FG Reed 42, 10:23.
Moose 75 punt return (Brien kick), 3:00.

Third Quarter

NY—Tony Stewart 16 return (Brien kick), 2:52.

Fourth Quarter

Pit—Ward 4 pass from Roethlisberger (Reed kick), 6:00.

Overtime

Pit—FG Reed 33, 3:56.

NY PR
First downs 105
Total Net Yards 275 364Rushes-yards 40-193
Passing 171-171Punt Returns 5-63
Interceptions Ret. 2-110 1-14Comp.-Att.-% 21-32 17-32
Sacked-Yards Lost 3-17 1-10Fumbles-Lost 0-0 1-1
Penalties-Yards 4-35 6-45

Time of Possession 32:12 30:12

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing—New York, McCarries—58
5-30, Pennington 23, Ochtersley 1-4, Pittsburgh 27-10, Brady 11-54, Roethlisberger 4-4, Haynes 1-2.Passing—New York, Pennington—58
10-21, Brady 11-54, Roethlisberger 4-4, Haynes 1-2.Receiving—New York, McCarries—58
10-21, Martin 4-29, Sowell 3-11, Becht 1-5, Baker 2-3, Jordan 1-4, Pittsburgh 10-21, Brady 11-54, Roethlisberger 4-4, Haynes 1-2.Missed field goals—New York, Brien 47
(50), 43 missed.

Falcons 47, Rams 10

St. Louis 14 10 0 0-17
Atlanta 14 14 10 0-47

First Quarter

Atl—Crumpler 15 pass from Bulger (Wilkins kick), 12:00.

Atl—Curtis 57 pass from Bulger (Wilkins kick), 9:14.

Second Quarter

Atl—Dunn 62 run (Feely kick), 7:52.

St. Louis, 19 pass from Bulger (Wilkins kick), 5:26.

Atl—Rossaum 68 punt return (Feely kick), 5:58.

Third Quarter

Atl—Price 6 pass from Feely (Feely kick), 10:25.

Fourth Quarter

Atl—Safety, Bulger sacked in end zone, 11:38.

Atl—Duckett 4 run (Feely kick), 1:54.

A-70-70.

St. Louis
First downs 339 397
Total Net Yards 18-77 40-327Rushes-yards 62-70
Passing 1-12 4-0Punt Returns 0-0 3-152
Kickoff Returns 1-12 4-0

Interceptions Ret. 23-35 1-17-17

Comp.-Att.-% 4-7 1-4
Sacked-Yards Lost 4-68 2-2-0Fumbles-Lost 4-36 4-32
Penalties-Yards 10-65 35-35

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing—St. Louis, Jackson 39-160
M. F. 1-0, Loder 1-1, Bulger 1-0, Atlanta 17-14, Vick 1-19, Duckett 15-66.

Passing—St. Louis, Loder 1-0, McCarries 4-29, M. F. 1-0, Jackson 3-22, Loder 2-2, Jenkins 2-2, Atlanta, Price 3-22, Crumpler 2-2, Jenkins 2-2, Vick 1-2, D. H. 1-1, White 1-1, Loder 2-2, Vick 1-2.

NFL calendar

Feb. 13—Pro Bowl, Honolulu.
Feb. 23—March 1—Scouting combine, Indianapolis.
April 23-24—NFL Draft, New York.

Falcons: Rams run out of gas against rested Atlanta

FALCONS, FROM BACK PAGE

"You saw a team that plays together," rookie coach Tom Mora said. "You saw a team that's pretty complete. We like to say in the locker room that the best player on our team is our team. We were fed that tonight with the way we played."

The Falcons advanced to the NFC championship game for just the second time in the franchise's 39-year history. They will host Minnesota or travel to Philadelphia next weekend for a spot in the Super Bowl.

The other time Atlanta made it this far was the 1998 season. The "Dirty Birds" got all the way to the Super Bowl, only to get blown out by Denver in John Elway's final game.

Now, a team known mostly for its inept play is on the verge of making it to Jacksonville, Fla., with a first-year coach. And speaking of Mora, he finally gave his family a playoff victory.

His dad, Jim Mora, took New Orleans and Indianapolis to the playoffs six times, only to go one-up each time. He's the only 100-win coach in NFL history without one postseason victory on his résumé.

Well, his son has a 1-0 record in the playoffs. And his dad, who was at the Georgia Dome, must have been pretty proud.

St. Louis won its last two regular-season games just to make the playoffs. And his dad, who was at the Georgia Dome, must have been pretty proud.

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ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH/AP

Atlanta Falcons' Allen Rossum, center, returns a punt 68 yards for a touchdown in the second quarter against the St. Louis Rams on Saturday. Rossum set an NFL record with 152 yards on three punt returns.

"I don't think I've been part of a loss like this," defensive end Bryce Fisher said. "We played like we had handcuffs on."

Vick's big run came on Atlanta's third offensive play, setting up an 18-yard touchdown pass to Alge Crumpler just three minutes into the game.

The tone was set for the first half. It resembled a track meet more than a football game. The Falcons led 28-17, the teams combining on the second-highest scoring half for a divisional-round game in league history.

Rossum did more running than anyone. The 5-foot-8 return specialist returned a punt 68 yards for a touchdown with less than a minute to go in the first half.

He wasn't done, setting an NFL playoff record with 152 yards on three punt returns—a staggering 50.7-yard average.

"I truly felt it all out on the

field," Rossum said. "I'll have no trouble going to sleep tonight."

He had returns of 39 and 45 yards in the third quarter, setting up Vick's 6-yard touchdown pass to Peerless Price and Jay Davis's 38-yard field goal for a comfortable 38-17 lead.

Rossum broke the mark set by Minnesota's Anthony Carter, who had 143 yards in punt returns against the Saints during the 1987 season. In a fitting bit of symmetry, that was the first playoff loss for Mora's father.

Dunn rushed for 142 yards on just 17 carries, including the 62-yard touchdown that quickly eclipsed Vick's scamper for the longest run in Falcons' playoff history. By the time Dunn was done, he had eclipsed Jamal Anderson's franchise record of 113 yards in a playoff game.

The Falcons looked every bit like the league's top running team, finishing with 327 of their

397 yards on the ground—one of the greatest rushing games in playoff history.

Vick passed for only 82 yards but was an efficient 12-for-16.

"This is a very exciting time for us," he said. "The whole world is watching. This is something we've worked for 27 years. Why not go out there and enjoy the moment?"

Vick's only blemish was a fumble at the end of a run, and the Rams' defense had nothing to do with it. He simply lost the ball after stumbling to the turf with out-bing touched.

Otherwise, Vick loomed large—even when he didn't have the ball. The Rams assigned a linebacker or defensive back to keep an eye on him, but that created some huge holes for the running backs.

"They tried to play us in a certain defense and we were kind of one since, losing to Dallas after the game." "It backfired on them."

Steelers: Star-crossed Jets left shaking heads

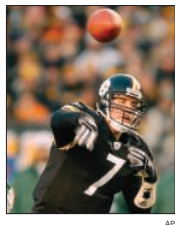
STEELERS, FROM BACK PAGE

Reed's 33-yarder with just more than 12 minutes gone in overtime won it and was his 19th successful conversion in a row, tying Gary Anderson's team record.

The loss will go down as one of the most excruciating in the Jets' star-crossed history. Brien's twin misses were doubly stunning due to appointments for a guitar team on the verge of its biggest upset since Broadway Joe's guaranteed win over the Colts in the January 1969 Super Bowl.

"I've never seen anything like it," Steelers linebacker Larry Foote said. "I'm not going to say it was a miracle, because that's crippled people and plays stupid and walking, the blind seeing. But that's the closest thing to it I've ever seen."

Brien's 47-yarder with 1:58 remaining hit the goal post, but Roethlisberger gave the Jets the ball right back when his off-line throw was intercepted by David Barrett—just the kind of mistake rookie quarterbacks are supposed to make in the playoffs, but Big Ben had rarely made during his 13-0 rookie season. The Jets then



The Steelers overcame two interceptions by rookie quarterback Ben Roethlisberger, who was 17-for-30 with two touchdowns.

drove cautiously from the Steelers' 37 to the 25, giving Brien a 43-yarder to win it on the final play of regulation.

But the kick sailed far to the left, not even close, and the given-a-reprieve Steelers danced joyously on their sidelines—Roethlisberger right in the middle.

"I tried to hit it a little harder because I was real surprised I

didn't have the distance," Brien said, referring to the 47-yarder.

The second one didn't fly. The first one didn't go in."

Brien's 28-yard kick in overtime beat San Diego last week—yes, by the same 20-17 score. But he hit a 42-yard FG to halt Pittsburgh's early momentum and make it 10-3 Pittsburgh early in the second quarter. He was 24-for-29 during the season.

"I had confidence in him, he made the one last week and I thought he could make it," Jets coach Herman Edwards said. "He was the kind of a guy who, when there was nothing else we could really do, we had to kick the field goal. He's been a good kicker for us. It was just a tough day."

The Jets became the first NFL team to play three consecutive overtime games, including their regular-season ending loss in St. Louis. They dropped to 0-7 in Pittsburgh and 2-16 all-time against the Steelers.

The Steelers are 1-3 in AFC title games under coach Bill Cowher, losing all three at home as his favorites, but linebacker Joe Porter senses this season will be different—and not just because they have won a team-record 15

in a row. They were only the fourth NFL team in 26 years to go 15-1 during the regular season.

The Steelers won four Super Bowls in six seasons from 1974-79, but they have returned only once since, losing to Dallas after the '95 season.

The Jets will wonder for years why they're not going to the AFC title game.

"This is about as frustrated as I've ever been in my career," said NFL's rushing champion Curtis Martin, who was outstretched by Jerome Bettis 101-77 in a matchup of two of the NFL's top five career rushers. "Right now I feel there is no end to my anger... We left our hearts out there today."

And they left with a loss that might take more than an offseason to forget.

"I just feel bad for the team. I'll be fine," Brien said. "I just feel bad for the guys that played so well, played so hard and came up short."

Roethlisberger finished 17-for-30 for 181 yards and two touchdowns.

"I did everything I could to lose the game," Roethlisberger said. "I've got to play better. That was terrible. The game we played today is not going to cut it."



Michelle Kwan celebrates after winning her ninth title at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships, tying Maribel Vinson for the all-time record.

Kwan makes history with ninth U.S. title

BY NANCY ARMOUR

The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Michelle Kwan tossed her head back and raised her arms in triumph, a smile as bright as her golden dress spread across her face.

She had fretted about being able to win even one title when she was barely a teen. Now 24, she has a remarkable nine, her place in history secure with a run at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships as impressive for its longevity as its dominance.

"It's incredible. Nine!" said Kwan, whose latest crown came Saturday night, tying Maribel Vinson for the all-time record. "I just remember trying to win my first one. To get my ninth... I have no answer for that because I never thought I'd get here."

Now it seems hard to imagine nationals without her at the top of the podium.

Kwan earned four more 6.0s, giving her 42 at nationals in the illustrious career that began more than a decade ago when she was too young to wear makeup. Now she's as dominant as ever, with no one in the United States close to challenging her.

Certainly not Sasha Cohen, who again failed to come through when it matters most. Cohen finished second after botching two jumps and was lucky to finish ahead of up-and-comer Kimmie Meissner, who made a bit of history herself with the first triple axel by a U.S. woman since Tonya Harding in 1991.

Meissner had been doing the axel in practice all week and landed a perfect one in warmups, drawing loud applause. When it came time to do the jump for real, the axel seemed to be in slow motion as she took off and then turned 3½ times in the air. A huge smile crossed her face as she lightly touched down, and the crowd roared, knowing they'd just seen something special.

Earlier, Johnny Weir won his second straight men's title. Olympic bronze medalist Tim Goebel was second.

Vinson won nine titles in the 1920s and 1930s, a mark that once seemed untouchable. Gretchen Merrill, Tenley Albright and Peggy Fleming — they all won multiple titles, but none came close to Vinson.

But it's somehow fitting that Kwan was the one to finally reach the pinnacle. Her former coach, Frank Carroll, trained with Vinson, and Carroll would often tell Kwan stories about Vinson and the lessons she'd taught him.

"There's a cosmic connection between me and Maribel," Kwan said. "She taught Frank and Frank taught me. To be with her is something."

Her performance Saturday night may not have been Kwan's best — she was a little tentative and slower than she's been in practice, and she only did five triples. But it was more than worthy of the record books.

Skating to "Bolero," with a program choreographed by none other than Christopher Dean, Kwan was the picture of grace, perfectly in sync with the music.

She picked up speed with every jump she did, until she was dancing down the ice on her final footwork. The fans cheered so loudly they drowned out the end of her music, jumping to their feet when she finished. Kwan pumped her fist, shook her head and clapped her hands as if to say, "I did it."

When she saw her 6.0s she beamed. Kwan got seven 6.0s this week, the last major competition where the century-old scoring mark will be used. The International Skating Union has already gone to a points-based system, and U.S. Figure Skating plans to follow suit.

"Sweet!" Kwan said, referring to her 6.0s. "I'm going to be sad when the 6.0 system goes away."

The title was Kwan's eighth straight, extending her own record.

She's also a five-time world champion, and has silver and bronze medals from the Olympics. The only hole in her impressive résumé is Olympic gold, but the 2006 Games are only a year away.

Cohen has yet to win a major title — U.S., world or Olympic — and she won't ever get one if she keeps skating like this. She crashed hard on a triple lutz and had to put a hand down on the ice to keep from falling on her triple loop.

"I'm disappointed not to nail all the jumps, like I've been doing in practice," Cohen said. "It's not in my overall plan not to skate perfectly."

McGrady lifts Rockets late

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Tracy McGrady scored 28 points and came up with a handful of clutch plays in the Houston Rockets' 73-67 victory over the San Antonio Spurs on Saturday night.

McGrady sparked the Rockets' strong finish by converting a three-point play, making a couple of free throws and then finding Bob Sura all alone behind the arc for a three-point shot that gave Houston a 64-57 lead with 2:49 to go.

He nailed a clinching three-point shot of his own with 34.6 seconds left, putting Houston ahead 69-61. McGrady left his right hand lingering in the air a little longer than usual and smiled at the crowd cheered.

Yao Ming added 13 points and Dikembe Mutombo came off the bench for 15 rebounds, helping the Rockets win a season-high fourth straight game and move three games above .500 (20-17) for the first time this season.

They also won consecutive games against San Antonio for the first time since 1997. Tony Parker led the Spurs with 21 points and six assists, while Tim Duncan had 18 points and 12 rebounds.

The Spurs were held to a season-low point total, going only 24-for-68 (35 percent) from the floor, including 2-for-16 (13 percent) from three-point range.

San Antonio's offensive woes certainly weren't helped by the injury of guard Manu Ginobili, who left in the third quarter after bruising his right quadriceps and didn't return. He played only one minute after halftime, then was taken out. Ginobili finished with six points, three rebounds and three steals.

Lakers 104, Warriors 102: Lamar Odom made a driving a layup with 1.3 seconds left, and the Lakers won their first game of the season without Kobe Bryant in Oakland.

Odom had 27 points and 12 rebounds, and he drew a charge from Adonal Forly with 12.6 seconds left to set up his final shot. Odom then got the ball at the top of the key, drove past Cliff Robinson and made a hanging layup to lift the Lakers to their fourth victory in five games.

Chuck Atkins added 20 points for Los Angeles, which placed



Bryant on the injured list before the game with a sprained ankle. He's expected to miss about three weeks.

Derek Fisher had a career-high 29 points against his former teammates. Speedy Claxton had 15, but missed a long jumper at the buzzer.

Timberwolves 92, Trail Blazers 84: In Minneapolis, Latrell Sprewell scored 25 points, including a pair of key three-pointers in the fourth quarter, to lead Minnesota.

Kevin Garnett had 17 points and 10 rebounds, and Eddie Griffin grabbed a career-high 18 rebounds for the Timberwolves.

The Timberwolves also took advantage of a thinned Portland front-line to gain the edge in the rebounding battle 44-32. Missing frontcourt players Zach Randolph, Shaheed Abdul-Rahim and Darius Miles due to injury, Portland went to a four-guard lineup through much of the second half.

Pistons 99, 76ers 95: Tayshaun Prince's short jumper with 24.5 seconds left put Detroit ahead and his two free throws sealed the Pistons' fifth straight victory.

Richard Hamilton scored 25 points for the Pistons, who have won 12 of 16 since falling to .500 on Dec. 11.

Magic 85, Pacers 84: In Indianapolis, Hedo Turkoglu had 23 points and eight rebounds as Orlando held off a furious finish by the Pacers.

Reggie Miller missed a chance to tie the game from the foul line with 3.3 seconds left and Jamal Tinsley's desperation heave from halfcourt banked in, but it was ruled he shot after the buzzer.

Jermaine O'Neal had 38 points and 15 rebounds to lead Indiana, which had a two-game winning streak snapped.

Kings 99, Clippers 95: In Sacramento, Calif., Chris Webber had a season-high 36 points and 10 rebounds to lead Sacramento.

Peja Stojakovic made four three-pointers and had 24 points, and Cuttino Mobley scored 13 points in his Kings debut.

Mavericks 98, Nets 93: Dirk Nowitzki scored 26 points, including 16 in the second half after having X-rays on his left ankle, to lead Dallas at home.

Jerry Stackhouse had 20 points and 10 rebounds, and Michael Finley added 16 points to help the Mavericks snap a two-game losing streak and beat the Nets for the 10th straight time.

Bulls 86, Knicks 84: In Chicago, Eddy Curry's layup with 21.4 seconds left gave Chicago its sixth straight victory.

The winning streak is Chicago's best since Michael Jordan led the team to 13 consecutive wins late in the 1997-98 championship season. The Bulls, who lost their first nine games this season, have won 12 of 15 overall.

Andres Nocioni set up the winning score by blocking Terry Ariza's jump shot. Tyson Chandler saved the ball from going out of bounds and threw it blindly to Kirk Hinrich, who fed Nocioni as he raced up the floor. Nocioni then passed to Curry, who drove to the basket and put the Bulls ahead.

Chandler blocked Nazr Mohammed's shot of time running out to seal it.

Hawks 103, Bobcats 95: In Atlanta, Al Harrington scored 22 points, and Antoine Walker added 21 points and 11 rebounds to help the Hawks beat expansion Charlotte.

The Hawks led 88-65 with 8:51 left to play, but had to survive a late scare as the Bobcats cut the lead to single digits in the final minute. Jason Hart scored 13 of his 19 points in the final period to lead the comeback attempt.

Grizzlies 101, Bucks 82: Jason Williams had 25 points and eight assists, and the Grizzlies used a team-record 13 three-pointers to beat the Bucks in Memphis.

Pau Gasol added 22 points and eight rebounds, and Bonzi Wells scored 21 points for Memphis, which won for the eighth time in nine games.

Cavaliers 84, Jazz 71: LeBron James scored 10 of his 27 points in the fourth quarter and the visiting Cavaliers rallied from a 19-point deficit to beat the Jazz.

The Cavaliers outscored Utah 31-24 in the fourth quarter and held former teammate Carlos Boozer to just three points in the second half.

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Stoudamire saves No. 1 Arizona

BY BOB BAUM

The Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — Salim Stoudamire felt himself going into one of his infamous mental funks against UCLA, but talked himself out of it. What followed was one of the greatest shooting performance of the college basketball season.

Stoudamire capped a 24-point second half with a three-pointer with 2.5 seconds left to give No. 17 Arizona a 76-73 victory over UCLA on Saturday, snapping the Bruins' four-game Pac-10 winning streak.

"I was upset in the first half and it affected my game," Stoudamire said. "In the beginning of the second half, the coach took me out. I sat and thought about many instances where this had happened. ... I just told myself, 'You've got to pick it up from this point.' And I did."

The left-handed shooter, who entered the game as the No. 2 three-point shooter in the country at 56.2 percent, finished with 32 points. He scored 24 of the Wildcats' final 29 points.

"He is the best shooter in the country, hands down," Arizona coach Lute Olson said. "They talk about the guy at Duke [J.J. Redick], but I will put Salim up against him anytime."

Stoudamire, who scored 34 points the last time he played UCLA, is the cousin of Damon Stoudamire, who set a franchise record with 54 points for the Portland Trail Blazers on Friday night.

"I watched the game, actually," Stoudamire said. "That definitely inspired me."

After Stoudamire's three-pointer from the top of the key put the Wildcats up, Arizona's Hassan Adams stole a UCLA pass and was fouled. Arizona was called for a technical foul, though, when two players rushed the court in celebration with 1.2 seconds left.

"We have to work on telling our freshmen to not go on the floor until the game is over," Olson said.

However, Jordan Farmer of UCLA missed his two free throws, Adams missed his two, and the game ended before the Bruins could get off another shot.

Stoudamire was 9-for-11 from the field in the second half, most of the shots mid-range jumpers, and was 11-for-16 for three-pointers. He also made all six of his free throws.

Channing Frye added 15 points for the Wildcats (43-4, 1-1) in the first half. Ivan Radenovic scored eight points and grabbed a career-high 14 rebounds for Arizona.

Channing Thompson led UCLA with 27 points on 10-for-16 shooting and had 10 rebounds. Farmer added 15 points and Arron Affalo had 13 for the Bruins (10-4, 4-2), who shot 61 percent (17-for-28) in the first half but just 27 percent (8-for-30) in the second.

"They stepped up their intensity, and we just missed shots," Farmer said. "We had a lot of good looks that we missed, but a lot of credit to them, they played hard in the second half."

The Bruins committed 23 turnovers in

losing at McKale Center for the eighth consecutive season.

"Stoudamire was so hot they were just playing to him," UCLA coach Ben Howland said, "getting him shots and he was making them. He was very, very good."

Stoudamire scored 17 of his team's 18 points in a 9-and-a-half-minute stretch in the second half, while the Bruins went 9-16 without a field goal, missing 11 consecutive shots.

He scored the first 12 points in a 15-3 run that put Arizona up 68-61 on Adams' steal and three-point play with 4:04 to go.

Frye's goaltending on Thompson's short jumper ended UCLA's field goal drought and triggered a 7-0 spurt that tied it at 68 when Thompson made two free throws with 1:38 to go. Stoudamire sank two free throws to give Arizona a 70-68 lead with 1:28 left, and two more with 50 seconds remaining to put the Wildcats ahead 72-68.

Mustafa Shakur made one of two free throws to make it 73-68 with 40 seconds left.

But Thompson made a 10-footer, then Adams threw the ball away against UCLA's press and Affalo hit a three-pointer from the corner to tie it at 73 with 16 seconds to play.

Stoudamire calmly dribbled the ball up court, then let fly beyond the three-point line for the game-winner.

Freshman Arron Affalo acknowledged he gave Stoudamire too much room. But Affalo had seen Stoudamire dribble past him for pull-up jumpers, and got fouled going to the hoop.



Arizona's Salim Stoudamire center is grabbed and congratulated by his teammates Channing Frye (45) and Mustafa Shakur (15) for making a three-point shot in the closing moments to beat UCLA.

"I just didn't want to foul," Affalo said. "He was about 30-plus feet out. I figured he would at least, with 6 seconds left, penetrate and maybe pull up then. I didn't think he would walk and shoot from the volleyball line or wherever he shot it from."

UCLA led most of the game but never by more than eight points.

Oklahoma State's win moves Sutton past mentor Iba

The Associated Press

STILLWATER, Okla. — After so many years on the court at the Gallop and the Arena, Eddie Sutton's name will be forever associated with the hardwood floor.

After Sutton passed mentor Henry Iba for seventh place in ca-

reer coaching wins with an 83-73 victory over Iowa State on Saturday, Oklahoma State officials announced that the court would be named after the legendary coach.

"It means a great deal," Sutton said. "It is quite an honor." Joe Graham and Ivan McFarlin each scored 20 points as Sutton won his 76th game to pass Iba, his mentor who coached him during his 36 years at Oklahoma State.

Iba was present when Sutton was hired at Oklahoma State in 1990, but died on Jan. 15, 1993 — exactly 12 years before Sutton would pass him in career wins.

"Those three years, I was so fortunate to have the opportunity to really get closer to him," Sutton said. "Mr. Iba was such a wonderful man, but at times he was pretty private."

When we'd send those student managers out to get him, he'd come down to practice and we had great conversations. He certainly gave to me as a player and then as a graduate assistant. All the time, I learned a lot from him, a very strong foundation as far as a basketball philosophy."

Sutton was a little disappointed

in the manner his team failed to earn him No. 768. After building a 19-point second-half lead, the Cowboys (13-1, 3-0 Big 12) lacked the sting, controlling defense that Sutton and before him, Iba — instituted at Oklahoma State.

The Cowboys led 61-42 after hitting five of six free throws that resulted from an offensive foul against Jared Homan and two technical fouls against Cyclones coach Wayne Morgan for objecting to the call.

With their coach ejected, the Cyclones (8-6, 0-3) rallied for eight straight points and trailed 61-50 after Curtis Stinson's three-pointer from the left side.

Using a trapping defense, the Cyclones took advantage of Oklahoma State miscues and pulled within 75-70 following a 7-0 run that Bill Blacklock capped with two free throws with 2:16 to go.

Blacklock made it 79-73 with a driving layup with just over 1 minute to play, but McFarlin drilled a three pointer with the shot clock ticking down to tie the victory with 34 seconds left.

It was only McFarlin's second three-pointer of the season.

"I shot it when I'm wide open and I feel confident," McFarlin said. "It was just one of those situations when the clock was going down, Daniel (Bobbie) saw me and I did my checklist. I made sure my elbow was in and followed through, and it went in."

"I didn't know whether to run to the locker room after the three or just sit down. It was a great moment for me. That'll be something I'll cherish forever."

No. 7 Syracuse 75, Providence 71: Hakim Warrick had 20 points, 12 rebounds and a key steal with 3.3 seconds left for the visiting Orange (17-1, 4-0 Big East), who won their 10th consecutive game.

Dwight Brewington had 21 and eight rebounds for Providence, but he went 4-for-14 from three-point range. Ryan Jones, who averages 21 points per game, just 14 for Providence (9-7, 0-3).

No. 9 Kentucky 76, Georgia 55: At Athens, Ga., Patrick Sparks scored 15 points for the Wildcats (12-2, 3-0 Southeastern Conference), who led by as many as 30 points and finished with a 44-18 rebound advantage.

Levin Stokes had 18 points for the Bulldogs (6-8), who dropped to 0-4 in the SEC for the first time since 1998.

No. 10 Texas 63, Nebraska 53: Freshman Daniel Gibson scored all 12 of his points over the final 14:32 as the Sooners (13-3, 2-1 Big 12) bounced back from a 74-63 road loss to Texas A&M on Wednesday.

Joe McCray was 5-for-12 from three-point range and had 21 points and 11 rebounds for host Nebraska (8-5, 2-1).

No. 11 Mississippi St. 80, Arkansas 55: Lawrence Roberts had 17 points and 10 rebounds and the Bulldogs (15-3, 3-1 South- eastern Conference) won their ninth straight at home.

Jonathan Modica had 14 points in the Bulldogs' (13-4, 3-1), which lost its third straight and was held almost 24 points below their scoring average.

No. 12 Connecticut 78, Rutgers 64: Josh Boone had 20 points, 12 rebounds and six blocked shots and Charlie Villanueva had 14 points, tied his career-high with 14 rebounds and 10 assists for the host Huskies (10-3, 2-1 Big East), who outscored Rutgers 58-28 in the paint.

Marqus Webb had 16 points for the Scarlet Knights (6-7, 0-3).

No. 13 Washington 108, Oregon St. 68: At Seattle, The Sunmons matched a career high with 26 points, going 6-of-7 from three-point range, and Jamaal Williams added a career-high 24 points for Washington.

Beavers coach Jay John left the arena in an ambulance at half-time after complaining of chest pain and shortness of breath.

The 46-year-old coach was examined by an on-site doctor before paramedics were called.

No. 16 Gonzaga 86, Pepperdine 62: At Spokane, Wash., Joni McMan scored 26 points, and Ronny Turiaf added 19 points and 10 rebounds, his fifth double-double of the season, for Gonzaga.

Gonzaga (13-3, 3-1 WCC) has won six in a row against Pepperdine since 2000. Glen McGowan scored 15 points for Pepperdine (12-7, 2-2).

No. 19 Louisville 69, 18 Cincinnati 66: Cincinnati, Taquan Dean was 7-for-13 from three-point range and scored 25 points for the Cardinals (14-3, 3-1 Conference USA), who trailed by 17 points in the first half.

Nick Williams led Cincinnati (14-2, 3-1) with 18 points.

No. 20 Pittsburgh 67, Seton Hall 63: Chevon Troutman had 23 points for the host Panthers (12-2, 2-1 Big East), who snapped a two-game losing streak at home after losing 43 of their 44 in the Petersen Events Center.

Massachusetts 76, No. 21 George Washington 74, OT: At Washington, Rashawn Freeman, who had season-highs of 27 points and 15 rebounds, scored with less than a second left in overtime for the Minutemen (8-6, 2-2 Atlantic 10), who led by as many as 18 points in the second half.

J.R. Pinnock scored 15 points to lead the Colonials (11-3, 3-1).

No. 22 Marquette 66, South Florida 64: Todd Townsend's three-point play with 5 seconds to play lifted host Marquette.

Travis Diener led Marquette (14-2, 2-1 Conference USA) with 24 points, and Townsend finished with 10. Terrance Leather led USF (8-6, 1-2) with 25 points.

No. 24 Iowa 66, Minnesota 60: Pierre Pierce scored 18 points for the host Hawkeyes (13-1, 3-1 Big Ten), who won despite going the final 10:45 without a field goal.

Jeff Haggen had 15 points and 12 rebounds for the Gophers (12-4, 2-1).

No. 25 Oklahoma 65, Baylor 61: At Waco, Texas, Drew Lauderdale scored a season-high 20 points, including a three-pointer and two free throws in the final 45 seconds, for the Sooners (13-2, 2-0 Big 12), who won their seventh straight overall and 21st in a row against Baylor.

Freshman Aaron Bruce had 21 points for the Bears (8-5, 0-2).

Top 25 roundup

No. 1 Illinois uses its Head to improve to school best 18-0

BY RICK GANO

The Associated Press

EVANSTON, Ill. — Luther Head's high-rising moves to the rim and soft jumpers from the perimeter led No. 1 Illinois to another victory and a place in the school's record books.

"We love it. We've done something no one else has done," Head said Saturday after the Illini's 78-66 win over Northwestern game when an 18-0 record—the best start in school history.

"Just to accomplish something no one has, we've got something to talk about. But we still have a lot left to accomplish," said Head, who finished with a season-high 26 points, 17 in the second half.

The Illini had tied the school's 1988-89 Final Four team on Wednesday with their 17th straight win. Now, the record's all theirs.

The 6-foot-3 Head used his great leaping ability to score from the inside, hit four three-pointers and played hustling defense for the Illini, who finally pulled away in the latter stages of the second half against the scrappy Wildcats (8-8, 1-3 Big Ten).

"The whole team loves changes. We play well when there is something to prove," said Head, who scored a total of seven points in two games against Northwestern last season.

On Saturday, he was 9-for-14 from the field.

"Nobody cares who the high scorer is. We've got a lot of guys who can score," he said.

In a raucous Welsh-Ryan Arena filled with both purple-clad Northwestern students and orange-wearing Illini followers, Illinois trailed only twice—early in the game—and led by eight at half-time.

Last season in Evanston, Illinois was ahead of Northwestern by nine at the half, but the Wildcats rallied for a 10-point victory.

Not this time. Illinois' experience and poise kept it from happening again, even though Head and Deron Williams picked up their third fouls early in the second half.

"The big difference is that we're a year older and we understand what it means to win on the road," Illinois coach Bruce Weber said. "They're tough to play here. ... It's tough for anybody to win on the road in the Big Ten. So, it's rewarding."

Roger Powell scored 15 points and Dee Brown had 12 for the Illini, who are 4-0 in the conference and have won 14 straight Big Ten games.

Leading scorer Vedran Vukusic, led to just two free throws in the first half, led Northwestern with 20 points, while Davor Duvancic added 13. The Wildcats shot 57 percent but still lost, partly because they had 16 turnovers. Northwestern fell to 0-13 all-time against No. 1-ranked teams.

Vukusic saluted Illinois' performance this season, while adding a qualifier.

"They're No. 1 and they're going to be for a while," he said. "But they're beatable."

After Northwestern got within six points early in the second half, Head drove for a basket and then took a nice pass from Williams for a high-rising slam as the Illini went back up by 10.

Silence banked in a shot and hit a three-pointer to slice it to five. But James Augustine got inside for a basket and converted a three-point play, dousing Northwestern's comeback attempt.

"When they made a play, we made a play. When they made a play the crowd would go crazy and you got to do something to shut them up," Brown said.

Colorado 'overmatched' against No. 2 Jayhawks

BY EDDIE PELLIS

The Associated Press

BOULDER, Colo. — With Kansas leading by one point, Colorado worked the ball to its best player, who shot a baseline jumper that hit nothing but air. Moments later, Keith Langford of the Jayhawks made a nearly impossible 10-foot runner to set up a three-point play.

Not only was that the key sequence in a 76-61 victory for No. 2 Kansas on Saturday, it was the kind of game-changing series of events that often illustrates the difference between the great programs and the ones that long to be.

"Sometimes, you're just over-matched," Colorado coach Ricardo Patton said. "There's a reason they're the number two team in the country."

Playing his second game with a sore on his broken left thumb, Wayne Simien led the Jayhawks (13-0, 3-0 Big 12) with 23 points and 17 rebounds.

Langford's three-point play after a Chris Copeland's miss set part of a 14-point afternoon during which he came through big seemingly every time things got tight.

"I just want clutch. Keith is my guy," Simien said. "He not only creates opportunities for himself, he creates opportunities for others in clutch situations."

The Buffs (8-3, 0-3) played well in a nationally televised home game of the season in front of a packed crowd, at least half of which was cheering for the Jay-

hawks. Those fans saw their team stop on their best start since opening 22-0 in 1996-97. Kansas, which has "dominated the Buffaloes since the beginning of time," according to the Colorado game notes, won for the 31st time in the last 32 games of this series.

"Their guys just made plays," Copeland said. "I think everyone can see we played hard. They have great players and they came through."

Indeed, this one wasn't as easy as the final score indicated, and at times things looked uncomfortable in the KU camp.

Behind Simien's nice effort, Kansas took a 17-point lead in the first half, but the Jayhawks still received a major tongue lashing in the locker room at halftime.

During Colorado's comeback early in the second half, Kansas coach Bill Self pulled Langford—who is already in his doghouse for comments he made about officiating last week—and the two had an animated argument on the bench.

Shortly afterward, Langford started dominating.

The senior guard, coming off a concussion last Sunday in a win at No. 9 Kentucky, converted his three-point play with 10½ minutes left. On Kansas' next trip down, Langford hit a three-point shot to put the Jayhawks ahead 51-46. A few minutes later, he somehow got another runner to fall as he was being bothered. He start a 9-0 run that put the game out of reach.

"He labored all day, and we



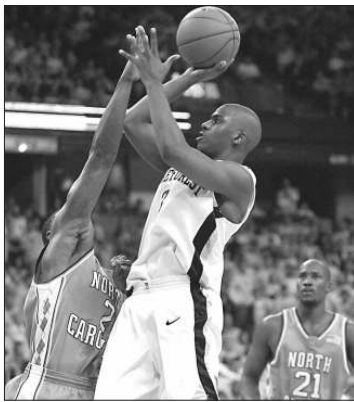
Kansas forward Wayne Simien, left, goes up to tip in a shot over Colorado forwards Andy Osborn, front right, and Chris Copeland.

weren't getting rebounds and the altitude affected us," Self said. "But when it got to one point, Langford really came through and made some big shots."

Led by Clean Eddy's relentless work, the Buffs grabbed 22 offensive rebounds to stay competitive despite missing a variety of open shots, especially in the first half, when they went 8-for-34 from the field.

Eddy finished with five points and 12 boards, six on the offensive glass. Copeland had 22 points and 11 rebounds and Richard Roby scored 14 points for Colorado.

"We definitely didn't shoot well from the field," Roby said. "Good teams have to find a way to win games if the jump shots aren't falling."



Wake Forest's Chris Paul (3) drives past North Carolina player Raymond Felton (2) and Jawad Williams (21) during the first half Saturday.

Paul, No. 4 Wake dominate Heels

BY KEITH PARSONS

The Associated Press

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — Chris Paul wanted to win, and he got a reminder on just how to make that happen from Wake Forest coach Skip Prosser.

"Coach always tells us this is a team game played by individuals," Paul said. "He says you have to beat your guy."

No problem there. Paul dominated his point guard matchup with Raymond Felton, Taron Downey had a season-high 18 points and the fourth-ranked Demon Deacons ran away from No. 3 North Carolina 95-82 on Saturday.

Wake Forest (15-1, 4-0) set an Atlantic Coast Conference record by making all 32 free throws—falling two short of tying the NCAA mark—with Paul finishing 9-for-9. The 6-foot sophomore finished with 26 points, eight assists, six rebounds and five steals to overshadow Felton, who shot only 5-for-18 and had 16 points.

"He is a very, very, very talented player with an excellent work ethic," Prosser said. "He also can read and watch television, so he knew the magnitude of this game, and I think he stepped up to the challenge."

Downey gave his team an unexpected boost. A senior whose playing time decreased with the emergence of Paul, he came in averaging only 7.6 points.

"I've said before and I'll say it again, he's one of the most selfless players I've ever coached," Prosser said. "And for that, he's also one of the most popular among his teammates."

Downey beat his average by

making three consecutive three-pointers during a 90-second stretch of the first half to give the Deacons their first lead at 14-13, and the score was tied only once after that.

"Big-time players like to play on a big stage," Downey said. "When the stage is big, I play better."

The Tar Heels (14-2, 3-1), who lost for the first time since their opener at Santa Clara, struggled throughout with foul trouble. Jackie Manuel, Marvin Williams and David Noel all fouled out, and Rashad McCants finished with four.

McCants scored 19 points and Williams added 15 for North Carolina.

"We just have to put everything in perspective," said Tar Heels center Sean May, who was held to nine points. "It's one game in conference play. We can't hold on to this forever, but we do get to think about some things, things we did wrong and how we didn't have each other's backs out there."

Because of a quirk in the scheduling for the newly expanded ACC, this was the only meeting of the season for the teams, the first time since 1922 they haven't played a home-and-home.

McCants picked up his fourth foul about a minute into the second half and sat on the bench for 10 minutes. When he returned, he tried to rally North Carolina by himself, scoring 12 points down the stretch.

"In the second half, we were much more competitive," Tar Heels coach Roy Williams said. "I'm disappointed in the result, but I think it was a heck of a college basketball game."

Ace helps Maruyama retain Sony lead, positive approach

Singh moves into contention as one of seven within five shots

By DOUG FERGUSON

The Associated Press

HONOLULU — Shigeki Maruyama didn't panic when he made a double bogey on his first hole and quickly lost his one-shot lead in the Sony Open. He simply figured he would get it back with a couple of birdies.

Turns out it only took one swing.

Maruyama made a hole-in-one on the 202-yard fourth hole, part of a wild day at windy Waialae Country Club that kept his large contingent of Japanese fans thoroughly entertained until his 40-foot eagle putt on the 18th hole Saturday stopped on the edge of the cup.

The tap-in birdie gave him a 68, and left him in the same place he started — with a one-shot lead.

"It was a really bad start," Maruyama said. "I tried to think positive this time. Fortunately, I had a hole-in-one. That really saved my game. I could think positive after that."

He was at 10-under 20, with plenty of weight left.

Brett Quigley saved par after driving into the TV compound and shot a 68, leaving him one shot behind with a great chance to end his 0-220 streak on the PGA Tour.

Not many are better prepared. Quigley spent the last month playing golf with his family — including his Dana Quigley on the Champions Tour, which means he played every day. He's trying to tread the first full-field event of the year as one of those marathon golf sessions with his uncle.

"We all have a tendency out here [to think], 'Oh my gosh, it's a PGA Tour event. You have to play perfect.' In reality, it's not even close to that," Quigley said. "I haven't attached any meaning to anything. And that's when I play well."

Paul Azinger, the 2000 Sony Open champion, worked his low, penetrating ball flight to perfection in the wind. He was among four players who had a share of the lead at one point, finished with nine straight pars and had a 67 to finish two shots behind.

"It's my time to do it. I'll do it," Azinger said. "I haven't gotten ahead of myself yet."

Among those in the large crowd following Maruyama was Iwao Aoki, inducted last year into the World Golf Hall of Fame and the last Japanese player to win the Sony Open. Maruyama was

14 when he watched Aoki hole a wedge for eagle on the last hole to beat Jack Renner by one.

"I saw him," Maruyama said. "It was one of the great pressures."

He could also get that looking behind him on the leaderboard.

Among the seven players within five shots of the lead was Vijay Singh, the No. 1 player in the world, who quietly surged into contention with a 67.

Singh might have been closer except for taking two shots to get out of a bunker on No. 16, courtesy of a plugged lie, and missing a 6-foot birdie on the last.

For most of the contenders, the first full-field event of the year is ripe with opportunity.

■ Quigley is the only player among the top seven who has never won.

■ Azinger finished No. 126 on the money list last year and does not have full status for the first time since he won Q-school 20 years ago.

Former Masters champion Larry Mize also has no status. He got a sponsor's exemption to the Sony Open, shot a 64 on Saturday and was at 7-under 203, along with fellow golfer Gary (68).

Charles Howell III also shot a 64 and was another shot behind.

Ernie Els took himself out of contention for a record third straight victory at the Sony Open. He had to rally on the back nine for an even-par 20, leaving him eight shots behind.

Otherwise, the Sony Open got back to normal — all 78 players who made the cut are men, all have driver's licenses.

Fifteen-year-old Michelle Wie showed up at Waialae, but only to do a television interview with a Japanese network.

"We're on our way to the mall," father B.J. Wie said. "She's meeting friends to go shopping."

The electricity came from Maruyama, who had a large following and kept them in suspense all day.

Quigley looked as though he might drop out of the pack. He drove into the trees on No. 3 and had to scramble for bogey, then missed a 3-foot birdie putt on the next hole. But he kept it together.

He surged into the lead with three straight birdies, all inside 10 feet. Then after dropping a shot on the 15th by missing the green, he drove into the TV compound on No. 16 and saved par with a tough 12-footer to easily keep in range of his first PGA Tour victory.

Els defends teen Wie's play; says exemption is worthwhile

By DOUG FERGUSON

The Associated Press

HONOLULU — The disappointment of missing the cut by seven shots in the Sony Open turned into disgust as Michelle Wie walked slowly across the parking lot in darkness, waiting for her parents to take her home.

All her practice rounds at Waialae Country Club were of little use in the strong Kona wind that came from the opposite direction and changed a course she thought she knew better than anyone.

"I hit so many putts that were right there. I mean, right there," she said. "I couldn't make anything."

Humm. Sounds a lot like Tiger Woods.

The 15-year-old paused, then broke into a big smile as she recalled all the putts Woods missed last week at Kapalua.

"Oh, I get it," she said. "That's funny."

Ernie Els came up with another comparison between Wie and Woods.

The Big Easy finished his second round Friday and glanced over his shoulder at the large leaderboard to the right of the 18th green, which had Wie's name at the bottom. She was 7 over with six holes left, no chance of making the cut.

When asked about his future, Els went on the defensive.

"Look, let's put this in perspective," Els said. "She's 15 years old. She's a girl. She's playing on the PGA Tour. Tiger Woods, I don't think he ever made a cut on tour except maybe in the Masters."

Woods didn't play his first PGA Tour event until he was 16, missing the cut in the 1992 Nissan Open at Riviera with rounds of 72-75.

"Did I belong out there? No. I wasn't good enough," Woods said. "But it was an experience that I wanted to take advantage of. It proved a lot to me because I thought I played pretty good for me, at the time. I was 17 back from Davis [Love III], so I figured I needed a little work."

Woods played in the PGA Tour events each of the next two years, only breaking par once, a 1-under 70 at the 1994 Buick Classic when he was 18. He finally made his first cut a year later when he tied for 41st at the Masters and was low amateur.

Wie made her PGA Tour debut last year at 14, when rounds of 72-68 left her one shot away from making the cut at the Sony Open.

The tournament waited until last month to make official what everyone expected — another sponsor's exemption for a high school sophomore who generates record crowds at Waialae.

"She's having a tough time because of the wind, but she's not making a mess of herself. That is not throwing an invite away. Only the real skeptics will think that way."

The novelty of a teenager playing on tour had worn off. The buzz was generated by expectations she might become the first female to make the cut on the PGA Tour since Babe Zaharias in the 1945 Tucson Open.

But everything went wrong from the start. Wie got the bad end of the draw — early Thursday when the wind gusts to 25 mph, late on Friday after showers made Waialae play even longer. The rough was thick, and she simply isn't strong enough to get the ball on the green, or at least get it within 40 feet.

And she missed the 12 good birdie chances she had. She made only three birdies and finished at 9-over 149, tied for 128th, better than 14 men. The cut was 2 over par, and Wie was 17 shots behind leader Shigeki Maruyama.

Els definitely wanted to play next year. "We said, 'I just want to have another chance at it, because I know that I can do better than this.'"

Should she get another exemption? Els said the kid should be allowed to come back every year unless her game goes south, and no one sees that happening.

Competing against the best men in the world, she doesn't look terribly out of place. Competing against the best women, she fits right in. Wie only finished out of the top 20 only once in seven LPGA events last year.

"She's so good for the island. She's so good for the tournament," Els said. "She's having a tough time because of the wind, but she's not making a mess of herself. That is not throwing an invite away."

What Els saw in playing 36 holes with Wie was maturity — more in the person than in the golfer, although ultimately the two fit together. His one bit of advice for Wie, and those around her, was to turn her loose.

"Hopefully, she's at a point where she can go play golf," Els said. "David Leadbetter, he's got the golf savvy. He can step back and let her play. She's got everything there."

Tom Lehman agreed. It was Lehman who first gave the teen prodigy her nickname — the "Big Wiesy," because her swing reminded Lehman so much of Els. He first played with her in a junior pro-am when Wie was 12, and has been amazed by her progress.

"My first impression of her was let her alone and let her play golf," Lehman said. "That was my first feeling, and that's still my feeling. She has a natural ability that you rarely ever see to swing a golf club. There's no need to make any changes at all, except perfecting what she has."

"She's like a thoroughbred. Let her run."

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SPORTS



Reserve guard Dixon scores 11 in fourth quarter as Wizards win seventh straight, Page 31

One by a foot; one by a mile

Steelers win in OT after Jets miss 2 FGs

BY ALAN ROBINSON
The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Steelers' greatest season since the 1970s was all but lost, Ben Roethlisberger's unbeaten rookie streak seemed to be over. Then Doug Brien missed the biggest kick he'll likely ever try.

Twice.

Jeff Reed did what Brien couldn't do — make a game-winning field goal — and the Steelers somehow beat the New York Jets 20-17 Saturday in a remarkable overtime playoff game filled with wild swings in momentum and emotion.

Roethlisberger overcame two huge interceptions — one for a touchdown and another that appeared to doom the Steelers late in the fourth quarter — to lead a decisive drive that began at their own 13 and sent Pittsburgh to next Sunday's AFC championship game at home against New England or Indianapolis.

SEE STEELERS ON PAGE 29



Pittsburgh Steelers kicker Jeff Reed, center, is mobbed by teammates Saturday after his 33-yard field goal in overtime beat the New York Jets 20-17.

Kwan ties record with her ninth title in U.S. Figure Skating Championships

Page 30



Dewayne Robertson of the New York Jets hangs his head as his team fell to the Pittsburgh Steelers 20-17 in overtime in an AFC divisional playoff Saturday at Heinz Field in Pittsburgh. Jets kicker Doug Brien missed a 47-yard field goal attempt with 1:58 remaining and a 43-yarder on the last play of regulation.

Vick, Falcons roll over Rams to advance to NFC title game

BY PAUL NEWBERRY
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Michael Vick rolled to the left, brushed aside a rusher like a pesky gnat and took off the other way.

He didn't stop until 47 yards later.

The Atlanta Falcons were off and running — and their one-of-a-kind quarterback had plenty of teammates along for the ride.

Warrick Dunn ran for a 62-yard touchdown. Allen Rossum set an NFL playoff record for punt returns and the Falcons routed the St. Louis Rams 47-17 Saturday night.

Vick? He was right in the middle of things, of course, throwing two touchdown passes and running for 119 yards to break Donovan's McNabb's year-old record for rushing yards by a quarterback in a playoff game.

But Vick's teammates managed to escape his considerable shadow, putting Atlanta within one win of the Super Bowl.

SEE FALCONS ON PAGE 29



Atlanta Falcons QB Michael Vick threw two touchdown passes and rushed for a record 119 yards in Saturday's 47-17 victory over the St. Louis Rams in Atlanta.

Maruyama aces fourth hole, maintains one-shot lead after three rounds in Sony Open

Page 34



No. 4 Wake perfect from line in victory over No. 3 N. Carolina

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